Daily Report

Latin America

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Haiti

According to a Port-au-Prince radio report, "at least seven people were injured" when police dispersed a group of pro-Aristide students outside the School of Medicine in Port-au-Prince demonstrating "against the high cost of living, privatization of the university, and for a return to democracy in Haiti." An unidentified student claimed that "about 300 or 400" students attended the protests in the capital and "numerous arrests" took place while some students "were beaten up no matter whether they were participating in the demonstration or not."

Bolivia

La Paz radio reports that Interior Minister Saavedra announced "if there is evidence of a crime, the extradition of DEA agent (Bryan Donaldson) will be requested from the United States." In a separate report, La Paz radio states that the Bolivian Bishops Conference [CEB] has isssued a communique regarding the U.S. ambassador. The CEB communique states that "an authentic rapprochement between the Bolivian and the U.S. people must be based on the recognition of the sovereignty and dignity of each country." Coca producers' leaders "will seek all necessary mechanisms to expel the U.S. ambassador from the country...," La Paz radio reports, "...due to a number of errors he has made against the Bolivian people." In addition, the coca producers seek the expulsion of those DEA agents who "commit abuses and the many who are involved in drug trafficking"

Brazil

Brasilia radio reports that President Collor's secretary, Ana Acioli, has testified to the CPI investigating charges against PC Farias. According to the report, "she asked for money to pay for the president of the Republic's expenses from Claudio Vieira [Collor's former secretary]. She added, however, that she did not know the origin of the money deposited in her account." Acioli explained that she used abbreviated names in certain bank accounts to "preserve (Collor's) privacy, because the accounts had funds that belonged to the president."

O GLOBO states that the progovernment congressmen of the CPI investigating PC were "very satisfied with the testimony of the Brasil-Jet Company secretary." The secretary gave a "completely different" testimony from the one given by Ana Acioli's former driver.

O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reports that Government Political Coordinator Jorge Bornhausen cited a paragraph in the Constitution which states that the president of the Republic "cannot be held responsible for actions that have nothing to do with his duties." This paragraph "is another powerful tool that the government will use in its struggles with the CPI."

Peru

Lima TV reports President Fujimori has stated that since the leadership of the APRA and Popular Action has refused to participate in the national dialogue, he "will go to the rank and file and youth of those parties to ask them for their opinions." He adds, "I am completely sure they share this need for change."

Uruguay

EFE reports on an interview with President Lacalle concerning the formation of a "Common Market of Knowledge" among the Ibero-American nations. Given that "information is one of the well-known promoters of progress," Lacalle hopes to take advantage of the Ibero-American countries' common "culture," meaning education, information, and use of information, in order to create a "community of knowledge," which is "aimed at a more effective transference of advanced knowledge." Concerning the role of Spain and Portugal at the Ibero-American Summit with regard to their EC membership, Lacalle states, "We must analyze Ibero-American compatibility regarding the entire EC. We cannot fully believe that Spain and Portugal—to strengthen their ties—will give up their huge objective of achieving European integration." He adds that he hopes "Spanish and Portuguese integration can become a reason to link us more strongly to the EC."

Cuba

Castro Thanked for Aiding Chernobyl Victims

FL1507192692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received a letter from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk thanking the Cuban people for the help given in solidarity to the children who were affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe. In his letter, Kravchuk says that in appreciation his people will always remember the kindness and sensitivity shown by the Cubans to the children that were hurt by the failure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Kravchuk says that during the last two years, approximately 8,000 small children, residents of Chernobyl, were able to rest and be cured in Cuba. The letter says: Your doctors operated on our children for free, and they gave them the magnificent camp on the edge of the Florida Straits, where the children regained a normal life after having suffered serious illnesses.

President Kravchuk ends his letter to Fidel by saying: We also know that you have personally participated in this action of kindness and compassion. I am convinced that the good memories of this gesture will always remain in the minds of the Ukrainian people. My respect and best wishes to you and all your fellow countrymen.

Delegation To Attend Nicaragua Conference

FL1507142392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Abel Prieto, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, is heading the Cuban delegation that is to participate in the "Foro de Sao Paulo" to be held in Managua, Nicaragua. In statements to the press, the Cuban leader has announced that he will present proposals at that event, which is being attended by leftist organizations, parties, and fronts from Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the conference during which the forum was established, in July 1990 in the Brazilian city of the same name, the U.S. blockade against Cuba was censured. The participants in the conclave that is to be held within the next few days in Nicaragua will discuss, among other things, options for development and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, and acts of solidarity and cooperation in that region.

U.S. Attempts To Militarize Drug Problem Eyed

PA1507233792 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by Marianela Samper]

[Text] During a recent international seminar on drugs, we learned of a study about U.S. efforts to militarize their efforts in this regard, and their collateral effects on Cuba. This is part of the U.S. Government's political and ideological policy to pass on the main burden in this conflict to the Latin American drug producing countries. In short, the U.S. drug program states that drug trafficking is a national security issue, therefore, the fight against drugs is essential to the Department of Defense.

New topics have surfaced since the end of the Reagan administration and during the present administration, after the end of the East-West conflict. Democracy, human rights, environment, and drug trafficking have moved into the forefront, and they are using these issues to find new ideological justifications to present to the U.S. Congress and international public opinion. Mr. Juan Cruz Cabrera, of the Havana University Center for American Studies, gives us more details.

[Begin Cruz recording] The U.S. Armed Forces has to face new conflicts. The Pentagon has made a number of studies which state that regional conflicts, ethnic, religious, and territorial conflicts, will be the new challenges and missions of the U.S. Armed Forces. [end recording]

The study cites two trends: to maintain the elite forces for cases of intervention and drug issues and to create certain services to provide logistics, while the Latin American Armed Forces change their mission concept from defending national sovereignty to police work. Cuba, an island nation that has suffered the effects of an economic blockade for over 30 years, attacks by paramilitary groups since the 1960's, and that is currently withstanding a propaganda campaign, is not free from this U.S. project. During the 1980's and 1990's the Ocean Adventure military exercises demonstrated the endless nature of the aggression.

[Begin Cruz recording] These military exercises recently included mock bombings of large Cuban cities. These maneuvers also include landings at the U.S. naval base, a territory in southern Cuba illegally occupied by the United States. [end recording]

New structures created in the Central American and Caribbean areas—through which drugs are shipped to the United States—include a large aerostatic radar network located on islands and in southern Florida. They were designed to do more than be used only in the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Begin Cruz recording] The Pacific Command, the Atlantic Command, and the Southern Command have created military forces—meaning Task Force 4, Task Force 5, and Task Force 6—which deploy between six to 12 ships around northern and southern Cuba with the legal and real goal of fighting drug trafficking. These ships are always nearby; they even put in at Guantanamo Naval Base for supplies. They also carry out a series of air maneuvers close to Cuban borders. In other words, these activities are carried out daily and they have been recently...[pauses] these activities previously lasted between four and six hours per day and they now last from 18 to 24 hours. [end recording]

In the struggle against drug trafficking, the United States has given an essential role to the use of methods involving special forces and troops, and to its military forces and means. Thus, the North Americans increase their economic, political, intelligence, and military options in countries where DEA personnel are posted. It is appropriate to mention Washington has created an infrastructure to track ships that carry drugs. But it can also be used for conventional military purposes.

It is appropriate to mention that economic, political, and financial groups—above all the weapons industry—endorse the struggle against narcotics because they are interested in continuing these activities, given the fat profits they generally derive from the system.

Economic Committee Signs UN Development Plans

FL1507212792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Today, the UN Development Program and the State Committee for Economic Cooperation signed two development plans that will be implemented in the Cuban biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. One of them will lead to obtaining four industrial enzymes—lactase, alpha-amylase, rennin, and saccharase—through advanced biotechnical methods for use in the refining process for raw sugar, the production of sweeteners and cheeses, and the elimination of caustic soda in the production of textiles and its possible contamination of the environment.

The other plan deals with the creation of a miniplant for quality control in the Cuban pharmaceutical industry. In both cases, Cuban scientists and technicians will have access to the most advanced technology which, as a substitution for imports, will benefit the country.

ANAP Assemblies To Introduce Ministry Link

FL1507154792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Among the principal objectives of the assemblies dubbed "Assemblies of the Small Farmers' Honor and Pride" by the national leadership of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] is that of implementing some of the agreements of the 8th ANAP Congress. These assemblies will begin tomorrow at the credit and services cooperatives. The meetings will be a propitious opportunity to introduce the various area chiefs who will, by province, attend to the work of the small farmers, and who will serve as direct links between small farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture.

ANAP also plans, simultaneously, to hold national training seminars for the nation's instructors in the small farmer and cooperative sector. ANAP President Orlando Lugo provided us with some details and explanations of this process over the phone.

[Begin Lugo recording] On the other hand, the area chiefs are going to be introduced at those same assemblies. I am talking about the Ministry of Agriculture's area chief, the person who is going to attend to [atender] a particular group of small farmers. These people are going to be introduced in a very democratic manner to the small farmers, in close coordination with the people's councils, an extremely important element that is helping us enormously, and which is undoubtedly going to be of great help in this entire process of attention to small farmers. We are already seeing this in many places where people's councils have been formed. [end Lugo recording]

Audit Reveals Irregularities; Sanctions Applied

FL1507200292 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Some 40,000 bars of soap that cannot be found, raw materials that were allowed to spoil, and other abnormalities have been found during an audit by the Office of the Public Prosecutor at the Granma Province Local Industries Enterprise. Correspondent Alemae has the report.

[Alemae] At Jiguani Municipality's soap factory, which belongs to the Granma Province Local Non-Food Industries Enterprise, it has been established that because of administrative negligence, more than 40,000 bars of soap—with an estimated value of more than 12,000 pesos—cannot be found. Public Prosecutor Anya Ramirez Lara of the Granma Province Office of the Public Prosecutor will give us more details about the audit carried out at that production unit.

[Begin Ramirez recording] In April 1992, the municipal Office of the Public Prosecutor in Jiguani conducted an audit at the soap factory belonging to the Granma Province Local Non-Food Industries Enterprise. During this audit, serious violations of the rules that govern the system for managing the economy were discovered.

For example, upon analysis of the main raw material for producing soap, taking as an example the period between August 1991 and March 1992, 44,288 bars of soap were found to be missing due to a failure to follow established production norms. As a result of this, in addition to the way such a shortage may have affected society, there were economic consequences to the tune of 12,400.64 pesos.

During this same audit, it was also found when Account 59 [words indistinct] that the provincial Local Non-Food Industries Enterprise authorized an adjustment of 5,779 kg of tallow and 5,850 kg of caustic soda. This situation came about because the tallow spoiled by being stored improperly. There was also waste because caustic soda was put in tanks with holes and dents in them, which caused the soda to break down.

It is significant to point out that the factory's administration knew that tallow [as heard] breaks down easily

when exposed directly to the sun. They nevertheless failed to take into consideration the possible consequences of such behavior and allowed this product to remain in unfavorable conditions until the enterprise's management authorized an adjustment. The management ordered that this adjustment be made to the entire 5,850 kg of soda, despite the fact that 800 kg of the product had already been used in the soap factory. This shows that improper authorization was given to adjust the total amount of this product, especially since the enterprise's management knew that the supplying body was not going to charge it for the abovementioned product because of the condition the product was in, and therefore this product would not mean an expense for the enterprise.

All this points to superficiality in the investigation conducted by the commission formed to determine the true causes of the problems, and who was really responsible for them. There was also superficiality on the part of the accounting department of the provincial enterprise, because this department proved unable to determine how much truth there was in the conclusions reached by the commission and instead sought easy solutions in matters that abet criminal activity.

This was corroborated by the fact that during the audit, it was found that people not belonging to the entity in question had received small sheets of paper authorizing them to receive a total of 489 bars of soap for free. It was also determined that workers were given three or four bars of soap weekly. Also, on three occasions in 1991, the workers were given tallow free. All this affected the factory economically to the tune of 2,402 pesos. These missing inventories ended up being subsidized by the state, since adjustments were made by the entity as such.

Because of this, five disciplinary measures have been applied: Two people have been transferred to another work place, one person has been demoted, and two people have been docked 5 percent of their pay. Also, two legal suits have been submitted: one for abuses committed in the exercise of one's duties, and the other for failure to do one's duty to preserve economic property belonging to a state enterprise. Both cases are in the process of being followed up by the Office of the Public Prosecutor. [end recording]

'Dissident' Proposes Program To Gain Candidacy

PA1607040192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2048 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Havana, 15 Jul (EFE)—Cuban dissident Osvaldo Paya Sardinas proposed to the Cuban Government a temporary program as a condition for the presentation of his candidacy for deputy.

In a letter sent to the president of the Cuban parliament, Juan Escalona Reguera, Paya also asked that the program be submitted to a plebiscite.

Paya Sardinas is a member of the so-called "Christian Liberation Movement" [Movimiento Cristiano de Liberacion], which does not have legal status. He describes himself as a practicing Catholic, an educator, and an electrical engineer.

Last March the Cuban dissident announced his desire to become a candidate for deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] in its next elections.

According to the temporary program proposed by Paya Sardinas and distributed to the foreign media, the proposal will only be in effect "if it is approved in a plebiscite by the Cuban people."

The preamble states that "the spirit of this program focuses on the civilization of love, a society in which the relationships among men are not based on strength or on the power of money, where men are not divided by their ideas, race, religion, or financial status, but a society based on love among men."

Paya says that if his program is approved in a plebiscite, "what is now a proposal will become a fundamental law by means of the sovereign vote of the majority of the Cuban people. It will not be seen as the program of a party or of a political sector, but as the people's option to renew their society, their lives, and overcome the crisis that is threatening to destroy the nation."

Paya said, "it is a temporary program for a short period of time under well-defined terms" and it "does not intend to offer definitive options for Cuban society."

The temporary program proposed by Paya Sardinas includes nine chapters and 30 topics comprising the following issues: people's sovereignty, reconciliation, armed groups, order inside the country, social matters, communication, mass media, exile, foreign relations, economic matters, education, and culture.

Barbados

Argentine Foreign Minister Pays 2-Day Visit

FL1507200492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 15, CANA—A technical mission from Argentina is to visit Barbados to identify technical cooperation projects following talks here this week between Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and his Barbados counterpart Maurice King. Di Tella spent Monday [13 July] and Tuesday here, and in his discussions with King, several areas were identified where Argentina could provide technical assistance to Barbados, according to a communique released Wednesday by the Barbados Foreign Ministry.

The areas include agriculture and the related activities of cattle rearing, agro-industry, fruit production, horticulture, and acquaculture; fishing; public administration and reform; economic management, marketing and

export promotion; technical and scientific research and university cooperation; education and culture; housing, urban, and rural community development; health and nutrition programmes; the environment and protection of natural resources; and small and medium enterprises. Argentine assistance to Barbados will be channelled through the Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation, which operates within the framework of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

The communique said Di Tella also presented for the consideration of the Barbados Government, an outline of a technical assistance programme for the Caribbean devised by the Argentine National Institute of Agricultural Technology.

Di Tella, whose visit to Barbados was part of a four-nation Caribbean tour, also held discussions with Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) President Sir Neville Nicholls on possibilities for Argentine cooperation with English-speaking Caribbean countries through the CDB.

Haiti

Injuries Reported in Pro-Aristide Demonstration

FL1607120392 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Haitian police have beaten student supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and fired automatic weapons in the air to break up their demonstration. Witnesses say several students were injured in the incident at the medical institute in Port-au-Prince. About 20 people were arrested.

Students Arrested, 'Beaten Up'

FL1607144292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] At least seven people were injured yesterday morning when the police were sent to disperse a demonstration by the students of several schools in the capital who were demonstrating against the high cost of living, privatization of the university, and for a return to democracy in Haiti. One of those injured received a gunshot wound. According to witnesses in the area, however, others who were injured hurried directly home without hospital treatment because they feared for their safety. These same witnesses mentioned that numerous arrests also took place.

The incident occurred after the students staged a small demonstration near the School of Medicine. Plainclothes and uniformed police entered the school, arresting and beating students, and firing shots in the air. One of the students explained how the incident happened.

[Begin unidentified student recording] We were gathered inside the School of Medicine. We began demonstrating with the intention of going down into the streets [words indistinct]. We [words indistinct] a first time. We went to the Marche Salomon and demonstrated there. Then, we went back to the School of Medicine. It was while we were in the School of Medicine, with headbands and placards with slogans on them, that we saw two plainclothes military. They were not wearing uniforms. They were armed with clubs and other weapons. They came in and began hitting us. Students were running away. Those who did not have time to run away were beaten up with billy clubs; others were arrested.

[Jean-Max Blanc] Did the policemen shoot?

[Student] Yes, they did. They fired shots in the air.

[Blanc] [Words indistinct]

[Student] I think [pauses] I do not know whether some were actually shot.

[Blanc] Were there injured?

[Student] Yes. Personally, I was injured. It was with billies that [words indistinct]. When we went back to the school, we were still chanting and protesting against a trend toward privatization and against dictatorship. Then, they entered the school and [words indistinct].

[Blanc] Can you tell me how many students were arrested?

[Student] No. I think they arrested many students, but I cannot assess the number at this time.

[Blanc] Did they beat many up?

[Student] Yes, many. All those who were in the doorway were beaten up no matter whether they were participating in the demonstration or not. I did see that.

[Blanc] How many people do you estimate were present this morning?

[Student] I must tell you that not all the students had yet gathered. There were about 300 or 400. [end recording]

These statements were made by a student to Jean-Max Blanc, a Radio Metropole journalist.

Aristide Camp Prefers Haiti as Negotiation Site

FL1507182492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Father Antoine Adrien is presiding over the 10-member committee formed following the Florida meeting of representatives of the lavalas sector. The committee has assumed the mission of soliciting the participation of all components of Haitian society in seeking what it calls a true national consensus. According to the committee, that consensus should lead to the return of President Aristide and the formation of a national concord government in accordance with the 1987 Constitution, the electoral mandates of 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991, the resolutions of the OAS and the UN General Assembly, and the 23 February Washington Agreement.

The president of the committee, Father Antoine Adrien, has renewed the stance of the Jean-Bertrand Aristide camp that any possible negotiations on the crisis take place in Haiti, not elsewhere. He has called for negotiations to commence as soon as possible.

MRN Communique Details Venezuela Visit

FL1507172892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] According to an MRN [National Reconstruction Movement] communique, Rene Theodore, leader of the MRN, and Senator Rony Mondestin have returned to Haiti after a three-day visit to Venezuela at the invitation of the president of that country, Carlos Andres Perez.

The note explains that this trip allowed the MRN delegation to observe that the Venezuelan president has maintained the stand he took at the beginning of the Haitian crisis. He would like the Haitian crisis to be resolved so international aid can resume. This, however, cannot occur if constitutional order is not restored; that is, if Father Aristide is not returned to power. The communique further indicates that Rene Theodore and Sen. Mondestin met with other international officials on the Haitian problem, but does not name those officials.

Everything discussed during the meetings demonstrates that no consensus is possible in Haiti without the participation of the ousted president. The MRN communique further explains that the international community perceives the Marc Bazin government to be just as illegitimate as its predecessor. The MRN says that its members who participated in those meetings find it important for the Haitian political class to set aside its personal interests for the sake of returning democracy to Haiti, not only to save the country's prestige, but to allow the resumption of relations with other countries, as well as for resumption of international aid.

Mondestin Opposition to Appointments Noted

FL1507163292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Before the National Reconstruction Movement (MRN) delegation returned to the country, Senator Mondestin protested the prime minister's decision to appoint some general managers in the public administration.

Sen. Mondestin, in a VOICE OF AMERICA interview, said Article 142 of the Constitution does not entitle Mr. Bazin to appoint general managers, delegates, vice delegates, ambassadors, or consuls. The senator added that parliament does not grant the prime minister the right to lead the country under Article 148 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Lack of Quorum Suspends Debate on Appointments

FL1507192892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] On 14 July, there was a debate at the Chamber of Deputies on the question of the appointments of general managers in the public administration. In fact, this debate was announced by a National Front for Change and Democracy deputy but it did not take place although the deputy's proposal was adopted. After one hour of stormy discussions, the meeting was adjourned because of a lack of quorum.

Minister Carre Answers Education Committee

FL1507180092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Minister of National Education Max Carre appeared before the Chamber of Deputies on 14 July to answer the questions of the education committee. The incidents that occurred at the Teachers Training School, the case of new public sector teachers who have not yet received their salaries, the file of the 1992 baccalaureate exams, and the premature organization of exams in the public high schools were addressed yesterday during this meeting.

Regarding the Ecole Normale Superieure case, Minister Carre promised to investigate the question, jointly with the Chamber, to find an answer. Concerning the case of the new teachers, Max Carre announced that a fund, allowing the teachers to receive their salaries, will be put at the disposal of the Ministry of National Education.

The president of the Chamber of Deputies education committee, Fritz Robert (Saint-Paultre), pointed out that there were disagreements between the minister and members of the committee. According to Deputy (Saint-Paultre), however, these disagreements [corrects herself] although these deputies proved to be pessimistic, they were more or less satisfied with the manner in which Minister Carre answered their questions.

Jamaica

Joint Commission With Costa Rica To Convene

FL1507193092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1730 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 15, CANA—A joint commission to discuss economic and technical cooperation between Jamaica and Costa Rica is to be convened here in October. The commission will discuss various issues including fishing agreements, technical assistance agreements, cooperation in anti-narcotics activity and tourism, and the possibility of direct airlinks between the two countries. This was one of the decisions taken during discussions between Costa Rican foreign minister, Bernd Niehaus and Jamaican Government officials during Niehaus's three-day visit which ended here Tuesday [14 July].

A communique issued Tuesday said the joint commission would be set up based on the provisions of an agreement on technical, economic, and commercial cooperation signed by both countries in 1984. Jamaica's foreign affairs minister, David Coore, told journalists Tuesday that Jamaica and Costa Rica would be moving closer together in tackling drug trafficking and money laundering. He pointed out that an agreement had already been signed with Mexico and that Jamaica was about to sign one with Honduras.

Coore also spoke of plans for an "umbrella agreement" covering the granting of fishing licences. This he claimed would ensure that royalties were paid to the country from whose waters fish were being caught and would help to prevent over fishing. The seizure of boats from Central American countries, mainly Nicaragua and Honduras, for illegally fishing in Jamaican waters and for violating local fishing regulations is a relatively frequent occurence.

Both governments would be working towards the dropping of the requirement for diplomatic and official visas, the communique said. Meanwhile, the Costa Rican minister of tourism is to visit Jamaica to examine the spectacularly succesful "all inclusive" hotel concept and Jamaica's agriculture minister, Seymour Mullings, is to visit Costa Rica.

Ties between Costa Rica and Jamaica go back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the migration of large numbers of Jamaicans to Costa Rica and other Central American states.

El Salvador

Reports Show FMLN Received Arms Since 1980

PA1507214592 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 13 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, the deputy chief of staff, stated that during the war the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] received thousands of tons of arms and equipment, including ammunition, radios, grenades, mortars, and missiles.

According to chronological intelligence reports cited by Vargas, since the end of 1979 and the beginning of 1980, Cuba managed to reunite the FMLN's five factions.

"Assistance and advisory service at all levels and contacts with key government officials in communist states at the time, drew commitments for the supply of 800 tons of arms and equipment for the Salvadoran guerrillas," Vargas stated.

"The first clandestine delivery was approximately 200 tons—all through Cuba and Nicaragua—and led up to the January 1981 offensive. Prior to September 1980, the various guerrilla groups were deficient in coordination, equipment, and arms. They began procuring arms from the international market through dealers who supplied Nicaraguan Sandinists," the general added.

"By January 1981, the guerrillas launched the 'general offensive,' with arms and support equipment never used before in El Salvador, and which was not on the Armed Forces' inventory," Vargas continued.

"There were Belgian FAL rifles; German G-3's; U.S.-made M-1's, M-16's, automatic and semi-automatic AR-15's; Israeli-made Galil assault rifles; and Uzi submachine guns. The guerrillas had .30 caliber, .50 caliber, and M-60 machine guns; Russian and U.S.-made grenades; M-79 grenade launchers; Chinese RPG rocket launchers; 80-mm mortars; M-72 antitank rockets; 60-mm mortars; and 57-mm and 75-mm recoiless rifles," the officer added.

"What you now know is undeniable and is based on true events, which we know about from a myriad of sources. These were the initial steps of the aggression and coordination of activities that confirm what has been denied for so many years. Cuba and Nicaragua's main role in addition to the role played by a series of communist countries at the time, which in a six-month period gave their starting support through a range of arms, allowed the launching of the first offensive in January 1981," Vargas believes.

Minister Reports Lagging FMLN Compliance

PA1507220092 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by Hilda Quijano]

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of not complying with the peace agreements regarding disarmament and demobilization. Gen. Ponce questioned the FMLN's attitude on demobilization and the incorporation of its members into civilian life. Ponce reported that over 200 FMLN members have still not concentrated in the assigned areas according to the agreements signed in Chapultepec, Mexico.

[Begin Ponce recording] There are 215 armed FMLN members who remain outside the 15 sites located in seven areas in El Salvador. The FMLN still has 34 of what they call public security commissions—other people may call them terror squads. [end recording]

Ponce issued these statements after reading to the National Assembly the Defense Ministry work report, in which he outlined the reduction of forces and disarmament plan.

[Begin Ponce recording] Regarding the Armed Forces' reduction, the Alpha Plan has already begun. In May 1992, 20,770 soldiers were demobilized, including 6,092 from the National Police who are now under direct presidential orders. The National Police and Treasury Police were disbanded as public security corps and their men joined the Army on 2 March 1992. [end recording]

Ponce said that during this past conflict the Army suffered over 8,000 dead and 25,000 wounded. Regarding the Truth Commission, the defense minister said that their work will have a positive effect on society because it will clarify what really transpired during events that received widespread domestic and international news coverage.

Vice President on Truth Commission's Role

PA1607003192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino said on 14 July that the Truth Commission will work to eliminate impunity in our society. To achieve this, crimes attributed to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against publicly elected officials must be solved. Here is Vice President Merino:

[Begin Merino recording] We believe that the Truth Commission's work should serve as an example that in our country impunity will not be tolerated; there will not be any privileged groups. [end recording]

The vice president said the government expects this kind of work to be done by the Truth Commission, adding that crimes committed by the FMLN during the conflict will have to be investigated by this Commission, which is charged with putting an end to impunity.

[Begin Merino recording] These crimes have been treacherously directed against elected officials—mayors and deputies—whose only offense was their desire to be of service to the community that elected them. There is

the case of a government official, specifically that of Antonio Rodriguez Porth, who at the beginning of this administration was murdered without consideration of his age or his situation, a man who was then considered a national figure. [end recording]

Merino made these statements during the second three-day Spanish-American conference on penal reform. Merino said the Truth Commission will only take up cases that have moved the nation as a whole and, unfortunately, because of a lack of investigation time, some missing persons cases could be left out.

[Begin Merino recording] It is not a matter of dealing with an endless list of missing persons. The cases investigated will be those that qualify, those that have had greater impact. It is not because the others are not important. There could be cases of missing persons [words indistinct] but the nation has a long history of missing persons. I do not know if the Commission will accept all charges or if certain criteria must be met so that they can carry out their work within the assigned time limit. [end recording]

Concerning the strike fostered by the Interstate and Municipal Coordinating Board, Merino said it had been a failure. He noted that it had been a victory for the rule of law in the nation. According to Merino, 99 percent of the government workers went to work as usual.

FMLN Commander Views Commission's Goals

PA1507222992 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] Commander Joaquin Villalobos said today that he had hopes the Truth Commission would be able to carry out its work without any problems. The FMLN general command member said that the Commission's delay—created as a result of the peace agreements—to initiate its work was a matter of some concern. This Commission is charged with investigating human rights violations committed since 1980. Villalobos added that one possible obstacle for the Truth Commission was resistance by some sectors to the peace process' new phases. Villalobos said he considered this phase the most sensitive because it deals with the cease-fire, police reforms, and the FMLN's political participation. These are Villalobos' remarks:

[Begin Villalobos recording] What is left now are the issues that deal with very sensitive matters; the Armed Forces, the Truth Commission, the transfer of lands, and the reintegration programs. These are issues of interest to the nation's power sector and they will have to be approached, therefore this phase is going to be much more complicated than the previous. [end recording]

As far as the effects that the Truth Commission's work could have, he ruled out that its conclusions and recommendations could generate confrontations, as it was not created with this goal in mind.

[Begin Villalobos recording] I hope it does not [generate confrontations], it should not do this. The Commission seeks and wants to do away with confrontations. This is the Commission's goal. The bottom line is that this should never occur again. That is the message, what happened in the country should never occur again. [end recording]

Villalobos ruled out, in his opinion, that if the Truth Commission fails to fulfill its duty correctly, the nation's peace process would be hampered.

Guatemala

Serrano: Chaos Only Exists in 'Sick Minds'

PA1607003992 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 15 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jul—President Jorge Serrano has denied there is any chaos in the country and laughed when a reporter made a statement to that effect during a news conference in the Mirrors Room at the Presidential Palace.

Serrano said there can be no chaos because all state institutions are functioning. He added that chaos only exists in the sick minds of some people.

Serrano announced he will travel to Spain this month to attend the Ibero-American Summit. He stressed that Guatemala cannot be the only country not present at that meeting, which will be attended by 23 heads of state.

That would not look good, he said. He added that if there was chaos, he would not travel to Spain, but since everything is normal, there is no reason he should not go.

Asked about his trip at a time when public employees are on strike, Serrano replied that we must learn to live in democracy.

He stressed that Guatemala's image would be hurt if he were the only president not to attend the summit where all Latin American countries will be represented.

Meanwhile, Presidential spokesperson Fernando Muniz said that Serrano will only visit Spain, since he canceled his trip to Egypt, Israel, Thailand, Taiwan, and Indonesia.

Muniz added that President Serrano canceled his plans to visit those countries immediately after his trip to Spain and instead he will go directly back to Guatemala.

Government, URNG To Resume Talks in Aug

PA1507230692 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno announced that a date has been set for the resumption of talks

between representatives of the Guatemalan Government and of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG].

Both the government and the guerrilla leadership have accepted holding a public and plenary meeting during the first week of August. The two parties accepted a three-point agenda proposed by Msgr. Quezada Toruno that includes: First, to conclude the human rights issue; second, to reach an agreement on the participation of civilian groups in the peace process; and third, to establish adequate mechanisms for the continuation of the treatment of other topics once the human rights issue has been settled.

During a news conference, Msgr. Quezada Toruno commented on the peace process as follows:

[Begin Quezada Toruno recording] The Guatemalans must understand that the rebels will not disarm, unless political agreements are reached on the key issues that led to the conflict. I am not trying to be the rebels' lawyer, but the rebels have said this repeatedly.

It is not just a matter of a cease-fire, a truce, or an amnesty; they are demanding political agreements on key issues in order to lay down their weapons. The rebels refer to this process as negotiation with [word indistinct].

I think that the fact the rebels have made a very clear proposal means we have made progress. I also think it is very positive that the government has given an answer, and that there are several groups that [words indistinct], commentaries in the press. There are more profound studies, but these have not been disclosed yet.

All of this will allow the duly advised mediator to propose a mechanism later that will accelerate the talks. [end recording]

Espina Comments on Possible Barrera Extradition

PA1607020692 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero reported on 15 July that the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry has not yet received an extradition request for Guatemalan citizen Luis Barrera.

He said that the government will proceed with the proficiency required by circumstances as soon as Barrera's extradition is formally requested.

[Begin Espina recording] We will heed that request when it is made. The investigation will be carried out, the person involved in the case will be arrested, and he will have his [words indistinct] with his lawyer to start a legal case. However, after all the steps are fulfilled, he is declared [words indistinct]. We are treating drug trafficking cases very severely.

About the particular case mentioned in the news, there are two issues. There is a family by the name of Palomo, who had a supply store called J.I. Palomo here in Guatemala City; they had warehouses in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama. Apparently they prepared hidden compartments in trucks at those warehouses to transport drugs to the United States, especially Houston.

It has been learned that they received some harsh sentences. It is a little worrisome and sad that a father, the sons, and a daughter, a whole family got into this situation, [words indistinct]. However, the law has already been applied in this case.

With regard to the other case, the Barrera case, I understand he sent a vehicle to a person who took it to New York where it was seized, and the person who received it was arrested. That is where the news you are asking about started, and the case is already known to U.S. and Guatemalan authorities, but the legal steps are yet to be taken by the U.S. Embassy, the Foreign Ministry, and the Government Ministry so that we can start the investigations, the arrest, and, then, the legal process. [end recording]

Honduras

Callejas Denies Part in Multinational Force

PA1107041692 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Jul 92 p 2

[Excerpt] San Pedro Sula—President Rafael Callejas has denied a news agency dispatch according to which Honduras would be part of a multinational military force that would invade Haiti to reinstate overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The news was carried by Honduran radio stations while President Callejas was aboard a military helicopter touring the Sula Valley area. During the tour President Callejas was accompanied by the EEC ambassadors. When questioned by reporters, President Callejas said it was the first time he had heard of the report and added that no request had been made, nor had any resolution been issued by the OAS to carry out that type of an action. "To reach that level the OAS must first issue a resolution, and as far as I know, the OAS has not even broached the subject." [passage omitted]

Reports Military Pocketed U.S. Aid Denied

PA1607004792 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir denied on 14 July accusations made against the Army by the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST.

The newspaper, which is edited in the U.S. capital, published an interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. It states that, during the last decade, the Honduran military pocketed a large part of the approximately $1.4 billion in U.S. military aid.

Discua Elvir explained that U.S. military assistance to Honduras does not come in the form of cash but in war materiel or military equipment. He complained that this kind of report adversely affects the military's good name.

The Armed Forces' number one man stated that he will wait for President Callejas to return from Venezuela before making a statement on the issue in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

* Landholders Murder Xicaque Indians Over Land

92CA0181I Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 Apr 92 p 33

[Article by Nany de Flores]

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, accompanied by Minister of Public Health Cesar Castellanos M., recently inaugurated a safe drinking water system in Montana de la Flor.

The president was accompanied by the ambassadors of Spain, Great Britain, and Germany, since the water supply and basic hygiene program in the rural sector, Program 86/20 (ALA), has been carried out by the Honduran Government with assistance from the European Economic Community.

During the past 12 months, 100 percent of the various communities of Xicaque Indians (also known as the Tolupanes) of the Montana de la Flor area have obtained sanitary public toilets and safe drinking water with the aid and supervision of the regional authorities of the Ministry of Public Health.

However, not everything is good news for the Xicaque Indians. In the name of 28 indigenous communities, Cipriano Martinez, their paramount chief or great leader, and Armando Martinez, the president of the Federation of Xicaque Tribes of Yoro, firmly demanded justice from President Callejas for the recent murders of leaders and members of the Xicaque community.

Guillermo Martinez [name as published], who replaced Vicente Matute as president of the Federation of Xicaque Tribes after the latter's murder in September 1991, asked President Callejas, the first Honduran president to have visited Montana de la Flor, to keep his commitments to the indigenous people.

Martinez recalled that in May 1991, the president turned over to Vicente Matute public documents and property titles that legitimized the possession of these lands that were given to the Xicaque people in the nineteenth century.

However, the process of turning over the lands by the National Agrarian Institute (INA) was interrupted when Vicente Matute was murdered in an ambush after having received death threats from local landholders.

Subsequently, 10 indigenous people, including community leaders and members, have been murdered. A woman and her deaf mute daughter were recently killed.

Martinez told the president: "The owners of the coffee plantations threaten us with death every day. We want to be taken care of by the law. We ask only for what is ours, nothing more, only what belongs to us by law. We indigenous people of Montana de la Flor have had our titles to the land for the past 100 years."

Chief Cipriano Martinez spoke to President Callejas in these terms: "Only one president has come here so far: Rafael Leonardo Callejas. Now we have been vaccinated. But that is not all. We demand security for the members of our tribes. We cannot live under daily death threats from the landholders. We ask that the armed forces provide us with security and that some of the unfulfilled commitments by the government become a reality."

After carefully listening to the indigenous leaders President Callejas said: "I have listened with attention to what you have said, Cipriano, and I am going to carry the message to the armed forces. Vicente Matute was my friend. Today he is with us here. All of us in the government, in society, and in responsible institutions want to see an answer given to the demand for justice of the ethnic groups and to find those guilty of the murder of your leaders. However, we also want the name of Vicente Matute, martyr that he was, to be recognized so that the authorities respect the rights as citizens of the ethnic groups of Honduras that you represent. I have carefully listened to your message."

Over the past few months, the tribes in Montana de la Flor have seen a notable improvement in their levels of living and hygiene, under the supervision of the regional public health authorities and with the help of the FHIS [Honduran Social Investment Fund]. Their homes no longer have earthen floors but are now of cement, thus eliminating one of the sources of the many respiratory and skin diseases from which they suffered.

Their homes have been fenced in, and carrots and beets grow around them. These are vegetables that have recently been added to the diet of the Xicaque people, which has helped to lower the indices of malnutrition among the children and old people.

Nevertheless, 100 years after three Xicaque families took refuge in the mountains of what is today the Department of Francisco Morazan, fleeing from the persecution of a governor of Yoro, their descendents live in danger every day and under death threats from coffee plantation owners of the area who continue to murder their leaders.

* Law Creates National Human Rights Office

92CA0181A Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 29 May 92 p 48

[Text] During the recently held Fifth Ordinary Session of the Presidential Commission for the Modernization of

the State, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas approved an executive decree creating the Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights.

At the same time and so that this office may be able to make use of all powers assigned to it, the president ordered the executive branch of the government to submit to Congress during the present session the constitutional reforms and other legal actions needed in this connection. The text of the decree is as follows:

The president decrees:

Article 1 - The Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights is hereby established. It will be attached to the Office of the Presidency and charged with coordinating actions taken by the different public entities and offices of the state on matters related to its area of responsibility.

Article 2 - To ensure the full organization of the Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights the president shall submit to Congress during the present session the constitutional reforms and other legal initiatives needed in this regard.

Article 3 - The Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights is the body responsible for watching over the implementation of actions and measures for the respect and defense of human rights. For this purpose, it will develop procedures and mechanisms to guarantee the recognition and application of such rights to the people of Honduras and to foreign nationals who are in the country.

Article 4 - The Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights will have the following powers, among others:

Paragraph 1 - Ensure respect for and implementation of human rights by the state and by private persons.

Paragraph 2 - Pay immediate attention to and follow up properly on any complaint about a violation of human rights.

Paragraph 3 - Develop and propose programs of prevention and development in terms of human rights in the juridical, economic, educational, cultural, and other fields.

Paragraph 4 - Participate in national and international meetings or events on matters of human rights or related to them.

Paragraph 5 - Watch over the implementation of international treaties, conventions, and agreements ratified by Honduras and promote the adoption of other agreements of a similar nature.

Article 5 - The Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights will be headed by an official called the commissioner for human rights, who will be appointed by the president from a list proposed by the National Commission of Reconciliation. This official will have the rank of secretary of state.

Article 6 - The commissioner of human rights shall have the following duties:

Paragraph 1 - Exercise the powers that this decree confers on the Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights, coordinating with other competent authorities as appropriate.

Paragraph 2 - Watch over the application of human rights standards and arrange for their implementation when called for.

Paragraph 3 - Coordinate, as appropriate, with national and international organizations concerned with human rights.

Paragraph 4 - Present an annual report to state authorities and to the citizens in general regarding the human rights situation in the country.

Paragraph 5 - Inform the president on a semiannual basis on the manner in which the powers of the Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights have been exercised and, in general, the results of actions taken for the protection of human rights in Honduras.

Paragraph 6 - Develop the working plan of the office and the annual budget in consultation with the National Commission on Reconciliation. These will be submitted for the consideration and approval of the president of the Republic.

Paragraph 7 - Request any authority or person to provide information on alleged violations of human rights.

Paragraph 8 - Make comments to Honduran authorities and, as appropriate, present suitable recommendations on violations of human rights.

Paragraph 9 - Perform such functions as other provisions of law and regulations confer on this office.

Article 7 - The National Commission on Reconciliation, established by Executive Decree No 808-87 of 2 November 1987, is a consultative body providing support to the commissioner of human rights. Furthermore, the commission will provide the national commissioner with the advice that he may require for the effective implementation of the powers of this office.

Article 8 - In addition to the functions and powers, which the decree providing for the creation of the office assigns to it, the National Commission of Reconciliation shall also:

Paragraph 1 - Propose to the Office of the President a list of nominees from which the Commissioner of Human Rights shall be appointed.

Paragraph 2 - Provide the commissioner of human rights with the political, juridical, and technical support necessary for this official to carry out his or her duties fully.

Paragraph 3 - Serve as a means of conciliation and good offices in any conflict that may arise between the commissioner of human rights and authorities and officials of the different branches of the state, decentralized bodies, and autonomous institutions and private organizations for the defense of human rights.

Paragraph 4 - Take under consideration and resolve a proposal for the dismissal of the commissioner of human rights.

Paragraph 5 - Propose to the commissioner of human rights the actions and measures that it shall consider necessary to deal with any situation concerning respect for and defense of human rights.

Paragraph 6 - Review the annual budget of the Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights prior to its submission to the Office of the Presidency for inclusion in the general budget of income and expenditures, and

Paragraph 7 - Other functions that the law may assign.

Article 9 - The Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights will enjoy autonomy and all guarantees and independence needed for the complete performance of its duties. The commissioner for human rights cannot be removed from his office except by a resolution adopted by two-thirds of the members of the National Commission of Reconciliation.

Article 10 - In the performance of his or her duties, the commissioner for human rights will be assisted by administrative and technical assistance personnel who may be needed.

Article 11 - The Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights will have the authority to accredit special representatives as necessary. They will depend directly on the commissioner and will have the following powers:

Paragraph 1 - Represent the commissioner in all activities that he assigns to them.

Paragraph 2 - Denounce to the competent authorities actions within their field of authority and that are violations of human rights.

Paragraph 3 - Act as a channel of communication and a means of cooperation with society in general and with the organizations that work in defense of human rights.

Paragraph 4 - Other duties that are specifically delegated to these special representatives.

Article 12 - Public authorities in the country, both civilian and military and without regard to their condition, grade, or status, will provide to the Office of the National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights the support and assistance, which the commissioner shall request for the better performance of his duties.

Article 13 - Investigations, which the commissioner for the protection of human rights shall carry out on matters within his authority, either in response to a complaint or on his own initiative, cannot be suspended, interrupted, postponed, or blocked in any way by order, mandate, or disposition of any authority.

In the same way, reports, expressions of opinion, and documents in general that contain the point of view of the office on matters related to the respect for, protection, and defense of human rights may not be changed or altered in any way.

Article 14 - Actions that need to be taken for the prevention of violations of and in the defense of human rights shall not exempt anyone from civil or criminal responsibilities that could apply under the law.

Article 15 - The present decree will enter into force after this date [as published; no date given in the text] and will be published in the GACETA OFICIAL. It shall replace decrees and agreements made by the executive branch of the government that deal with the same subject.

This decree is hereby made public by order of Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, constitutional president of the Republic of Honduras.

* EEC To Donate $12 Million for Businesses

92CA0181H Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] On 23 April the Government of Honduras and the European Economic Community (EEC) signed an agreement providing for $12 million in grant aid, which will be used for making loans and extending technical assistance to rural small business firms.

Total investment in the implementation of the Program for Loans and Technical Assistance to Rural Small Business Firms (Procatmer) is 10.9 million ECU's, or $13,625,000.

Actually, the commitment of the EEC has been set at 9.6 million ECU's, or $12 million, for a period of four years, while the Honduran Government will contribute $1,625,000.

The agreement was signed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and by Abel Matutes, EEC commissioner for Latin America, who arrived in Honduras on 23 April to sign the commitment.

Also attending the signature ceremony was Alonso Valenzuela, the director of the Honduran Social Investment Fund (FIHS), whose organization will receive the funds, which are not repayable, from community member countries.

The signature of the agreement is the first official act to be performed in the new Casa Presidencial [presidential residence]. Several members of the cabinet and members of the Diplomatic Corps were present at the event.

The principal objectives of the program consist of helping rural small business firms to become eligible for loans from the banking system, strengthening the employment capacity of the informal rural sector, increasing the incomes of small businessmen, and promoting investment opportunities.

Also present at the signature ceremony were Jose Ignacio Salamanca, a member of the staff of Abel Matutes, and Fernando Cardesa, ambassador of the European Community countries to Central America.

In his speech to mark the occasion, Alonso Valenzuela said that the program will create a revolving loan fund that will amount to 44 million lempiras in four years. It is hoped to handle about 5,000 loans to an equal number of rural small businessmen on a permanent basis.

Valenzuela assured the commissioner of the EEC that the grant will be invested with efficiency and honesty and will benefit thousands of poor Hondurans.

* Trade Deficit Reaches 700 Million Lempiras

92CA0181C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 6 Jun 92 p 25

[Text] San Pedro Sula—Honduran exports have remained static over the past few years. When changes in the statistics have occurred, they have reflected a decline like the one that took place between 1989 and 1991.

Between 1989 and 1991, exports declined by 72.3 million lempiras, indicating that this decline could increase if there is no diversification in markets and production.

These figures were given to secondary school students in San Pedro Sula by Mario Guillermo Lopez, the president of Honduran exporters, during the celebration of Free Enterprise Day.

During 1989, exports amounted to 1,032.8 million lempiras, while in 1991, they totaled 960.5 million lempiras. This represents a decline of 72.3 million lempiras.

Lopez said: "The first consequence of this decline is seen in the balance of trade in goods and services because it turned out to be unfavorable."

At present, the deficit between exports and imports is reaching 700 million lempiras annually "and can only be overcome through a diversification of products and markets, plus an increase in business aggressiveness."

Lopez added that some sectors continue to be "disturbing," citing banana exports as an example: In 1989, 45 million cases of bananas were exported, while in 1991, exports amounted to 38 million cases.

The lumber sector presents a "more disturbing" picture: In 1991, 61 million running feet were exported, whereas in 1992, the figure only amounted to 28 million running feet.

"This means that in Honduras we have almost no forests left," he said. "This results in the fact that we lose hydroelectric capacity for generating electricity, in addition to foreign exchange from exports of lumber." Only in the meat sector has there been an increase in exports, which rose from 9 to 12 million kilos.

Mario Guillermo Lopez illustrated one of the ways of resolving the decline in exports. He said that we need "greater business aggressiveness. It is difficult to go out and sell outside of Honduras; no one in the world is lining up to buy from us."

* First Quarter Exports Exceed $53 Million

92CA0181B San Pedro Sula TIEMPO (Financial Supplement) in Spanish 2 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The northwestern region of Honduras brought in $53,590,558.26 in foreign exchange during the first quarter of 1992, according to data provided by the Export Processing Center [CENTREX].

Lina Ortiz, deputy regional chief of CENTREX, indicated that exports to the United States amounted to $22,094,288.88 and consisted of such products as melons, coffee, meat, cigars, and wood products. These items brought in $10,511,860.06 in foreign exchange.

She pointed out that during the first quarter 72,948.2 tons of goods of various kinds were exported, amounting to $35,628,920.58 in foreign exchange. Exports to Japan amounted to 1,322.5 tons, worth $1,280,769.36 in foreign exchange.

Ortiz added that the Canadian market received 155.8 tons of Honduran products, generating $194,904 in foreign exchange.

She emphasized that exports to other countries amounted to 19,347.9 tons, worth $5,974,096.26 in foreign exchange income.

Ortiz pointed out that it is a little difficult to determine which export categories generated the most foreign exchange. Export income fluctuates because it is controlled by prices on the international market.

She gave as an example that in March 1992, 102,070 kg of ornamental plants, worth $76,104.25 in foreign exchange, were exported to the United States. In April 1992, ornamental plants exported to the United States were valued at $84,686.98 for 106,342 kg in weight.

She pointed out that during March 1992, the wood products sector generated $366,790.36. Nevertheless, in April 1992, exports of wood products brought in $309,951.19. These exports amounted to 368,599.22 and 377,426.42 kg, respectively.

*** Unemployed, 72,000; Underemployed, 417,000**

92CA0181G Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 12 May 92 p 3

[Text] The Economically Active Population [PEA] in Honduras is estimated at about 1.5 million. Some 72,000 of them are unemployed, and 417,000 are underemployed.

These parameters were derived from the report of the technical group of the committee appointed to consider an increase in the minimum wage. The report will be made public on 12 May.

According to the study, 3,284,713 persons over 10 years of age constitute the number of people of working age, or 69.2 percent of the total population of Honduras, which is estimated at 4.7 million.

The 47.7 percent of the population of working age constitutes the PEA. That is, 1,566,584 persons are active members of the work force.

A total of 72,135 persons are unemployed, which means that open unemployment in Honduras stands at about 4.6 percent.

However, this does not indicate that the low rate of open unemployment is a problem of little significance in the labor market. The high rate of underemployment is a matter of concern because 417,534 persons are not fully employed.

The employed members of the work force total 1,494,449 persons. Of this total, 760,913, or 50.9 of the employed population, receive salaries.

Salaried workers in the private sector number 535,608, or 35.8 percent of the employed population. Self-employed workers number 537,890, or 36 percent of the employed population.

Agriculture, livestock raising, services, trade, and industry generate 90 percent of the jobs, while the problem of underemployment is found among the self-employed and salaried workers in the private sector.

In the urban area, 15.6 percent of salaried workers and 35 percent of the self-employed have incomes below the minimum wage.

The Minimum

The structure of the minimum wage is based on sectors of economic activity, geographic areas, and the strata of workers.

In December 1989, the average national minimum wage was 5.78 lempiras. In January 1990, it was 8.59 lempiras. In December 1990, it was 10.20 lempiras. In December 1991, it was 12.47 lempiras.

According to information supplied by representatives of the private sector and labor leaders, the new structure of the minimum wage will be made public on 12 May. It has been predicted that the average national increase will be about 15 percent.

The workers demanded an increase in the minimum wage in the order of 40 percent, while the employers initially offered an increase of 4 percent.

*** Rate of Saving Unchanged in 1991**

92CA0181F San Pedro Sula TIEMPO (Financial Supplement) in Spanish 26 May 92 p 7

[Text] According to data from the Office of the Superintendent of Banks in the Central Bank of Honduras, there was a total of 772,090 savings accounts or deposits in the banking system through 31 December 1991. Nevertheless, according to some experts, this does not imply that there was more confidence among savings account holders.

A total of 364,333 accounts with balances of up to 100 lempiras, contained a total of 12,977,633.59 lempiras, which amounts to 0.83 percent of total savings in the banks. That is, 47 percent of the savings accounts had less than 1 percent of the money saved.

Meanwhile, 245,578 account holders, who have a total of 86,878,684.87 lempiras in savings accounts with balances from 101 to 1,000 lempiras, hold 5.57 percent of the money saved in the banks.

At the same time, savings accounts whose balances vary between 1,001 and 5,000 lempiras and that contain a total of 231,378,171.88 lempiras account for 14.83 percent of total savings throughout the country.

Only 4,223 savings accounts have balances of more than 50,000 lempiras. That is 5.5 percent of all savings accounts contain 32.58 percent of total savings.

*** Income Tax Revenues Within 'Normal Parameters'**

92CA0181D San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 9 May 92 p 33

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Of the 725 million lempiras that the government hopes to collect in income taxes, it had collected 368.4 million lempiras as of 5 May. This was stated on 8 May by Williams Chong Wong, the director general of taxation.

He indicated that the goal for 1992 is 725 million lempiras. However, as of 5 May, the total collected is 368.4 million lempiras. As a result, between now and the end of December 1992, he hopes to collect about 400 million lempiras.

He stated that in 1991, during the period from May to December, almost 400 million lempiras were collected. Therefore, "we are within the normal parameters." He said that in 1990, the Directorate General of Taxation received 186,000 tax declarations. In 1991, it received 40,000 declarations. However, in 1992, this figure declined to 30,000 declarations in the whole country.

In the official's view, this situation has occurred because now the system of withholding taxes at the source is in effect. This has forced people who previously did not comply with this obligation to do so now through the companies where they work.

He pointed out that there are companies that will have greater profits in 1992 than in the past. But he recognized that "there are industries where this is definitely not the case. However, this is normal. Things go better for some companies and badly for others."

He said that there has been stricter control over tax collection, but not necessarily greater income among the people. He warned that there will be stricter control over the free professions and companies to pay what the law provides.

Nicaragua

Student Protest Delays Supreme Court Ruling

PA1607012992 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] On 14 July university students from all over the country intensified their protests by occupying university campuses and interrupting classes until the Supreme Court of Justice issues an expected ruling.

Thousands of university students marched again toward the Supreme Court building to learn about the ruling on an amparo filed by university authorities, who are demanding that 6 percent of the national budget be allocated to the universities. The magistrates of the top Nicaraguan court said their ruling will be announced on 17 July because of obstacles placed by the National Assembly.

This delay prompted the angered students to head for the National Assembly building, where they threw thousands of eggs against and painted slogans on its walls, which were also stained by the smoke of burning tires.

To contain the students, who smashed some windows, dozens of riot police were deployed to the area to protect the Assembly building and the Presidency. The protest was not directed at the police but many were hit by eggs as they tried to contain the students. Although the police had express orders to repress the students, we learned they acted with great prudence, and thus prevented bloodshed.

After the protest at the National Assembly on 14 July, the students decided to occupy campus buildings and suspend classes and administrative operations until the Supreme Court ruling is announced. The students are threatening to stage a general strike that would completely paralyze higher education should the ruling be adverse to the universities. The government would be mostly responsible for this because so far it has refused to negotiate the six percent of the national budget for the universities demanded by their authorities.

Deputies Propose Armed Forces Reform, Reduction

PA1507225892 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] On the morning of 15 July the Christian Democratic Union presented a reform program to consolidate military forces for peace, democracy, and the possibility of economic recovery. The program is also designed to pave the way to normalize the flow of foreign aid.

The main Christian Democratic leaders, who have joined forces in a single parliamentary bloc, asked at a news conference that as part of the military reform process that intelligence forces be dissolved and that a special national security council be established to answer directly to the president. At the news conference, Dr. Luis Humberto Guzman [president of the Popular Social Christian Party] said there is nothing personal in these reforms. Deputy Armando Zambrana [Social Christian Party assistant secretary general and National Democratic Confidence Party general secretary] read the military reforms proposed by the Christian Democratic Union.

[Begin Zambrana recording] Reduction in military forces: Regardless of the size of the military forces in sister countries, Nicaragua needs at most a small force to carry out the tasks previously listed. We need to move ahead gradually and deliberately to reduce military forces to a maximum of 8,000 soldiers by the end of 1993.

5. [as heard] Program for the reintegration of demobilized soldiers into civilian life: The government should design and present to the international community a new program for military reform and review of military forces, with a definite agenda and with an additional budget to finance the retraining and effective reintegration of the demobilized into civilian society in a productive and dignified manner. All sectors of the Nicaraguan community should support this program.

6. [as heard] Dissolve intelligence forces and establish a special national security council, under direct presidential order. The work of the current intelligence forces represents a serious threat to public safety and people's privacy. This force's reputation is questionable when it refers to working within the law, respect for human rights, and party independence. It is essential that the dissolved forces be replaced by a new civilian national security council, totally independent of military forces, and under effective control of the president. [end recording]

Deputy Dr. Luis Humberto Guzman commented on this topic:

[Begin Guzman recording] This business effects a lot more than just the individuals who are involved. It has nothing to do with any particular person; we are speaking of a process of bringing order to all the Armed Forces. We intend a system that clearly defines how a person joins, works, and retires from the Armed Forces. We say that intelligence organizations must respect the

law. Newspapers in June reported the high level of impunity with which these forces operate. They have not reacted to these reports. Our position does not refer to any person in particular. We say that all Armed Forces and intelligence organizations must operate within the law and that we must effectively institutionalize the Armed Forces. [end recording]

Panama

Modesco, Frasco Conduct Peaceful Demonstration

PA1607015292 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] On 15 July, members of the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco] and the Broad Front for the Rescue of Colon [Frasco] staged a peaceful march in Colon. Giselle Tingling, from Modesco, reported that several persons were arrested.

[Begin Tingling recording] I do not think that Modesco has lost popular support. What I do believe is happening is that we are the victims of government threats, the arrest warrants, and the persecution of not only the leaders, but also many members of the rank and file. We have learned that four members of the rank and file have been arrested. This is persecution which frightens the people so they do not join us in the protests. [end recording]

Late this afternoon, Modesco and Frasco members staged a peaceful demonstration through the main streets in Colon. A similar protest is planned for 16 July.

Meanwhile, Alfredo Ehlers, governor of Colon Province who chairs the high-level commission that seeks to solve the problems in this area of the country, urged Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany to expedite procedures so that over $3.5 million are transferred immediately to the employment pool which will solve the unemployment situation for more than 1,500 Colon people.

Meanwhile, Reinaldo Douglas and Roger Amor, leaders of Modesco and Frasco, respectively, remain under arrest. The authorities are asking for a $500 bond for their release.

Argentina

Menem Discusses Latin American Integration

PY1607030292 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0652 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jul (EFE)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has addressed the relations between the European Community (EC) and Latin America, Spain and Portugal. The EC, Menem stated, rather than being "champions" of Latin America, must be "partners" of the region.

In an exclusive interview with EFE, he said that the next Ibero-American Summit, which will be held in Madrid, 23-24 July, "should produce concrete facts out of the common objectives" of Ibero-Americans, Spaniards, and Portuguese.

"The Ibero-American Community of Nations is a historical and cultural fact that has been built over the past five centuries. The challenge is to transform it into an efficient mechanism for political, economic, and social cooperation," he said.

Question: Do you believe that it is possible—in addition to being desirable—to promote relations between Ibero-America, Spain, and Portugal? How?

Answer: I believe it is possible, advantageous, and also urgent. The first step is always a political decision to move toward that goal. A second step would be to clearly establish the priority objectives, seeking to promote trade, joint undertakings, and investment. Concrete initiatives should be undertaken based on those guidelines, not only by the states but especially by the private area.

Question: What are the similar features in the transition to democracy in Spain and Portugal, and in the development of democracy in Latin America?

Answer: The transition between authoritarian regimes and full democracy has been another common denominator in the Ibero-American world. There are major coincidences between the recent experiences in Spain and Portugal, on the one hand, and Latin America, on the other. Until some years ago, there was still the idea that "with democracy it is possible to eat, heal, and educate." Today it is clear that this is not true. Governments cannot be just formal structures. They cannot just sit on problems trying to prevent them from blowing up. No matter how hard, governments should realistically take responsibility to resolve them.

Question: What, in your opinion, are the dangers jeopardizing integration in Latin America?

Answer: The dangers that jeopardize integration stem primarily from the ideological habits of anachronistic and misguided nationalism—which has been unable to understand the magnitude of political, economic, technological, social, and cultural changes that mankind has undergone in the last stretch of the 20th century—and from some economic groups that intend to preserve their privileges. They are afraid of foreign competition, and they intend to profit by the continuation of an autarky that is neither justified nor feasible.

Question: Do you think it is necessary to provide for special conditions to safeguard democracy in the integration processes? If you say yes, how could this be implemented?

Answer: At the OAS, Argentina has already proposed to implement regional mechanisms for preserving democracy. Provisions of this nature in integration agreements will strengthen democracies. It will be necessary to negotiate the formulas for each specific case. In the case of Argentina, we can say that beyond any kind of provision, the stability of the democratic system is absolutely guaranteed by the firm determination of our people.

Question: What is the position that Argentina should adopt toward the Pacific Basin countries, the United States, and the EC, taking into account its devotion for Latin American integration?

Answer: We are convinced that a new international order began to emerge after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet model. Argentina does not want to remain outside that phenomenon. It wants to engage actively in it. This is why, for example, we participated in the Persian Gulf conflict with the United Nations peace forces. Similarly, we would like to promote ties with the regional blocs emerging in the world economy.

Question: Do you think drug trafficking is the new enemy of Latin American democracy?

Answer: Not only is it Latin American democracy's main enemy, it is also the main enemy of all mankind. The new international order emerging should undertake antidrug activity as one of its main tasks. Even though drug trafficking is infinitely less active in Argentina than it is in other countries of the continent and Europe, we have implemented a strong policy to definitively eradicate it from our territory, while we have made progress toward strengthening cooperation mechanisms that will eradicate worldwide drug trafficking.

Question: Latin America is living in a democratic era after an era of dictatorships. Are there any guarantees that this situation will be consolidated, and that we are not just at the other end of the pendulum's swing?

Answer: The consolidation of democratic systems is intimately linked with their capacity to resolve economic and social problems. Democracy is strengthened in the eyes of society whenever it helps improve the living standards of people. Yet it appears to be fragile whenever it proves unable to do it or whenever it seems to be weak.

Question: After the Earth Summit, what measures will be adopted in Argentina to preserve the environment?

Answer: Our government has decided to give political importance to the issue through the creation of the Secretariat of the Environment, which is directly subordinate to the Presidency and which is actively promoting programs designed to implement each and every one of the recommendations approved at the Earth Summit.

Question: What measures should be adopted at a national or Latin American level, or worldwide, to eradicate starvation and poverty from wide areas of the American subcontinent?

Answer: We maintain that under the current world circumstances, to govern means to create jobs. We have to take advantage of the vast possibilities afforded by the technological revolution to promote a true revolution of production all over America. The adjustment of fiscal accounts, the reform of the state, privatization, and in general all the measures aimed at curbing inflation and achieving stability should not be an end in themselves but a means for promoting investment and growth, which are essential preconditions for improving the living standards of people and for successfully tackling the problem of marginal social areas.

Concern Over Increase in Brazilian Imports

PY1607022692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1334 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jul (EFE)—Entrepreneurial sources today, Wednesday, said Argentine entrepreneurs are concerned about the increase in imports from Brazil and are asking the government to apply measures to compensate for the trade handicaps with the Common Market of the South's (Mercosur) main partner.

The Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), the country's most powerful entrepreneurial association, wants the government to apply a special customs tariff on the importation of Brazilian products, a step that has been flatly rejected by the Economy Ministry.

According to an UIA report, during the first quarter of this year, Brazilians achieved a $250 million surplus in their trade with Argentina.

Argentine entrepreneurs claim that, by the end of 1992, this surplus will total $1 billion, a figure that would represent a record in bilateral trade.

The UIA report notes that the Argentine Government's policy of trade opening has resulted in Brazilians managing 40 percent of the local car tires market, 25 percent of shoe sales, and 20 percent of furniture sales.

The UIA report indicates that furniture manufacturing costs in Brazil represent 40 percent of those costs in Argentina.

The UIA supports the Mercosur program, which also includes Uruguay and Paraguay, although it complains that the dollar exchange rate currently favors Brazil.

Nevertheless, Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said last night that the government "will not subsidize the rich nor the entrepreneurs who have mismanaged their businesses."

"I don't believe the 'UIA' is asking us to create a hospital for companies," Cavallo stressed. He emphasized: "Only poor and unemployed people will be favored."

Cavallo pointed out that there are inefficient companies "because they have poor technologies or unproductive personnel, or because their owners remove the money instead of reinvesting it."

In June, the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay approved the regulations that producers may use to file their complaints about unfair trade practices within the Mercosur.

The Mercosur will become fully effective on 1 January 1995.

Talks Continue in Attempt To Avert Strikes

PY1607015292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Jul 92 p 11

[Text] A flurry of negotiations took place between the government and the General Labour Confederation (CGT) yesterday as part of efforts to scuttle the general strike planned for later this month. Meetings between officials and union leaders failed to break the negotiation deadlock, however, as the lack of a basic understanding prevented the sides from making any positive announcements.

In view of the lingering stalemate, a "summit" of CGT chiefs and cabinet ministers that was to be presided over by Presidential Chief of Staff was duly postponed. Bauza only received Labour Minister Rodolfo Diaz, Labour Secretary Enrique Rodriguez and Social Security Undersecretary Walter Schulthess after the latter meeting with CGT leaders.

"The meetings have not yet yielded concrete results so it would be useless to go to Government House. We'll resume talks tomorrow," CGT Secretary-General Oscar Lescano told reporters last night.

He added that the CGT directive council would meet on Friday at the latest to set a date for the 24-hour national strike.

Earlier in the day President Carlos Menem spoke to legislators who represent the labour sector during a meeting at the Olivos presidential residence and told them he would instruct his cabinet to reach a consensus on different draft laws affecting workers. The bills in question include the social security reform which was formally rejected yesterday by the CGT.

Elsewhere on the labor front: —The Labor Ministry yesterday ordered compulsory conciliation in the dispute of official bank employees and threatened to declare any

new strikes illegal. AB [Banking Association] bank clerks union leader Juan Jose Zanola said the truce order would be discussed tomorrow in a union plenary.

—Aerolineas Argentina's domestic and international flights could be disrupted over the winter holidays if captains go on strike to demand full payment of their June salaries, APLA [Airline Pilots Association] pilots union revealed yesterday. "The company paid captains only half their June wages due to alleged financial problems," said union sources, adding: "If the other half isn't delivered quickly they could call strikes affecting flights over the winter holidays." Around 200 captains were affected by the measure while co-pilots received full paychecks.

—Unions grouping railway employees handed Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo the results of a profitability study. The study contradicted the figures released by Cavallo's department—those figures used as the basis for the government's decision to close branches which fail to attract private investors for privatization. The unions requested a 90-day postponement of any decision to close railway lines. Leaders of La Fraternidad and Union Ferroviaria unions argued that some of the railway branches could actually make profits while others would be able to trim their deficits through a rationalization scheme.

Bolivia

Interior Minister on Extradition of DEA Agent

PY1507162092 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra announced yesterday in Santa Cruz that if there is evidence of a crime, the extradition of DEA agent (Bryan Donaldson) will be requested from the United States.

In fact, the U.S. citizens in our country and the U.S. Embassy could not have made more mistakes in a shorter period of time. In fact, ineptness [torpeza], lack of tactfulness, lack of intelligence, and coarseness seem to be the rules of Ambassador Charles Bowers and his boys [preceding word in English]. This is, in fact, filling all Bolivians with indignation.

We love U.S. citizens in general, but concerning the arrogant, inept, and abusive officials, we truly lament their presence among us, regardless of the diplomatic immunity given to those gumchewers.

Bishops' Communique on U.S. Envoy's Remarks

PY1507143092 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The Bolivian Bishops Conference [CEB] has issued a communique signed by Monsignor Jesus Suarez, auxiliary La Paz bishop and secretary general of the CEB, which includes all Bolivian Catholic bishops.

The communique states that the CEB laments the U.S. ambassador's remarks on Pando Bishop Luis Casey and Apostolic Nuncio Msgr. Giovanni Tonucci. It adds that the U.S. diplomatic representative used offensive remarks against the church in saying that denunciations made by Msgr. Casey are absolutely false.

An authentic rapprochement between the Bolivian and U.S. people must be based on recognition of the sovereignty and dignity of each country. We openly express our full solidarity with Msgr. Giovanni Tonucci, the pope's apostolic nuncio, and Msgr. Luis Casey, the vicariate bishop of Pando headquartered in Riveralta, in defense of the sovereignty and respect for the self-determination of our people, says the communique issued by the Bolivian Catholic bishops.

Station Commentary Criticizes U.S. Ambassador

PY1507142292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] We understand that Bolivia is a small country and does not deserve to receive a first-level U.S. ambassador. But the situation seems to be more complicated because they always send us fifth-level ambassadors, as in the case of the current ambassador. The ambassador is a man who, in trying to make believe that he is funny, opens his mouth only to put his foot into it.

The situation is worsening, yet the overwhelming majority of people in Bolivia want relations with the United States to be friendly, fraternal, clear, and one of mutual cooperation. We are aware that thousands of Bolivians live in the United States, and many have children with U.S. citizens.

However, the behavior of the U.S. ambassador to Bolivia is not only senseless, foolish, of little intelligence, and disheartening, but his remarks are also imprudent and increasingly awkward.

Mr. Ambassador: Behave yourself and take a course in education and good behavior, because if you remain as incompetent [torpe] as you are you will not only be confronted by radical sectors of our society but by the Bolivian communications media, the Bolivian Congress, the constitutional government, and even the Catholic Church. You will have so many enemies at the same time. Don't you think that you are incompetent?

Coca Producers Want Expulsion of DEA Agents

PY1507144892 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By Erwin Mallon Avalos from Cochabamba]

[Excerpt] Leaders of coca producers will seek all necessary mechanisms to expel the U.S. ambassador from the country due a number of errors he has made against the Bolivian people. In the same manner, those DEA agents

who commit abuses and the many who are involved in drug trafficking [as heard], must leave the country. This statement was made by coca producers' leader Evo Morales.

One session of the departmental congress of coca producers has been analyzing this situation. [recorded passage indistinct]

The congress continues its session with the participation of approximately 1,000 delegates. [passage omitted]

Brazil

CPI Questions Collor's Secretary at Hospital

PY1507143892 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by Maira Godoy Pereira from Sao Paulo]

[Text] Secretary Ana Acioli has testified to the Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] investigating charges against Paulo Cesar Farias. She said she asked for money to pay for the president of the Republic's expenses from Claudio Vieira [Collor's former secretary]. She added, however, that she did not know the origin of the money deposited in her bank account.

Acioli testified in Room 828 of the Sao Paulo Heart Institute. On doctors' orders, only CPI head Deputy Benito Gama and CPI coordinator Senator Amir Lando were allowed to remain in the room and listen to Acioli's testimony.

According to Deputy Gama, the testimony was recorded and will be studied and gauged by the CPI. Coordinator Lando asked questions for himself and on behalf of other deputies and senators.

Gama commented on what Acioli answered regarding the money deposited in her bank accounts:

[Begin Gama recording] She merely asserted that all the funds (?for private use) in her account were requested from Mr. Claudio Vieira and that she did not know who sent them. She repeated through out the testimony that she asked Mr. Vieira for the money,... [recording ends abruptly]

Deputy Gama added that Acioli had explained that she used abbreviated names in the various accounts to preserve the president of the Republic's privacy, because the accounts had funds that belonged to the president.

Gama reported that the cassettes with Ana Acioli's testimony will be handed to the press after 1200 today.

Brasil-Jet Secretary Delivers Testimony to CPI

PY1507123092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—The progovernment congressmen of the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] investigating the PC [Paulo Cesar Farias] case were very satisfied with the testimony of Brasil-Jet Company secretary Marta Vasconcelos. The reaction was similar to the opposition's reaction two weeks ago after the testimony of driver Francisco Eriberto Freire Franca. Yesterday, Vasconcelos—who earns a salary of 5.5 million cruzeiros—presented to the CPI a version that is completely different from the one presented by the driver. The conclusion reached by the congressmen was obvious: One of the two has lied. The progovernment congressmen guarantee it was Eriberto who lied. The opposition congressmen have no doubts that it was Marta who lied.

Senator Jonas Pinheiro (Liberal Front Party - Tocantins State) asked his colleague Odacir Soares (Liberal Front Party - Roraima State): "Then, did the young lady add anything?"

Odacir responded: "Not only she did not add anything, but she even removed things. Now it is the word of one person against the other one."

Deputy Jose Dirceu (Workers Party - Sao Paulo State) responded: "The young lady was very well taught. She denied everything. She delivered an excellent testimony for PC's interests. Nevertheless, the facts will contradict her."

In conclusion, Deputy Benito Gama (Liberal Front Party - Bahia State), the CPI chairman, said: "There are flagrant contradictions between the two testimonies. I do not rule out the possibility that a confrontation may become necessary."

The chairman's position is not being supported by the rest of the CPI members. The congressmen are convinced that, during a confrontation, each one will continue supporting his or her version, without contradicting themselves.

Farias Suspected of Forging Invoices

PY1607035692 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 15 Jul 92 pp 20-23

[Excerpts] Part of the Brazilian elite did not abandon PC [Pablo Cesar] Farias. Some 25 invoices issued during 1991, that is, the first year of Fernando Collor's government, reveal a remarkable relationship between PC Farias and a large group of profiteers of the national economy. This collection of invoices shows that an enterprise that belongs to PC Farias, the now famous Empresa de Participacoes e Construcoes Ltda, or EPC, gave "economic and fiscal advice" to the largest Brazilian economic groups and made some $6 million in 1990—one of the enterprise's most profitable years.

Among the firms that resorted to EPC's services and made it the top-ranking consultant enterprise are three large contractor firms, Votorantim, and the Alagoas sugar refineries. First on the list is the Norberto Odebrecht contractor company that belongs to Emilio Odebrecht. This company paid $3.2 million for the EPC's "advice". The next firm on the list is the Andrade Gutierrez contractor, which paid $1.7 million. Ten enterprises of the Votorantin group and the Tratex building enterprise, headquartered in Minas Gerais, paid the EPC some $300,000. Two invoices issued in 1991 indicate that the EPC earned $470,000 paid by the Alagoas Sugar and Alcohol Producers Cooperative—including the cost of economic and fiscal advice.

During an investigation at the EPC offices in Sao Paulo and Maceio, Federal Revenue agents seized 600 invoices and sent them to the Federal Police. It is suspected that these are forged invoices that, in truth, conceal payments to PC Farias who at that time acted as a former seminarist while conducting his deals at the ministries. Paulo Lacerda, who is responsible for the investigation, commented that "these invoices look very much like a reward." A number of businessmen summoned to give testimony paraded through the Federal Police last week. Antonio Ermirio de Moraes said that his brother Jose Ermirio was responsible for the Votorantim-PC relationship. Antonio added: "He heads the section of the enterprise that issued the forged papers and it is up to him to explain this." On Friday [no date specified] his brother went to the police and gave a secret explanation but refrained from making any comment as he was leaving.

"The Cement Cartel"

Contractor Emilio Odebrecht, in turn, assured he paid a fortune for PC Farias's wise advice. PC advised his enterprise what areas to focus on. The contractor denied that the money paid to PC Farias had anything to do with the awarded bid for the construction of the Petrobras off-shore drilling platform in the Campos Basin. In a world where a spade is called a spade, nobody knew about this fantastic consultant enterprise. In a world where an "economic consultancy" can mean anything, the EPC was a great success. Let Emilio Odebrecht tell you. [passage omitted]

It is quite likely that the notes do not correspond to illegal contributions to the presidential campaign because the president had already been sworn in in 1990. It is unlikely that they are campaign surpluses because in illegal electoral practices, this procedure is unusual. The theory the Federal Police is working on is that the $6 million earned by the EPC are rewards received. [passage omitted]

Constitutional Article Supports Collor

PY1507121092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Jul 92 Political Section p 6

[From the "Column of the Union" by Eliane Cantanbede]

[Text] On returning from Santa Catarina yesterday morning, Government Political Coordinator Jorge Bornhausen carried a copy of the Constitution opened to page 68.

He was concentrating on paragraph four of Article 86, which states: "The president of the Republic, during his term in office, cannot be held responsible for actions that have nothing to do with his duties."

This paragraph "uncovered" by Vice Governor Antonio Carlos Konder Reis, cousin and adviser of Bornhausen, is another powerful tool that the government will use in its struggles with the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] investigating the Paulo Cesar Farias case. This means that Collor cannot be held responsible, for example, for purchasing an Elba [Fiat], or landscaping at Casa da Dinda [Collor's residence in Brasilia].

The article is not enough to prevent Collor from facing a possible trial on trafficking of influence, but it creates another obstacle for anyone who wants to curtail the presidential term.

Journal Conveys 'Military Support' for Franco

PY1507212292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Jul (EFE)—An editorial in "Shoulder to Shoulder" magazine—the official mouthpiece of the Brazilian Armed Forces—has stated that Vice President Itamar Franco is "perfectly qualified" to become president.

The editorial in the latest issue of the magazine, which referred to the political situation in Brazil, said that President Fernando Collor is in an "uncomfortable" position. There has been a political crisis in the country since the president was involved in a congressional investigation into corruption.

The editorial said that the country will not remain leaderless if Congress decides to dismiss Collor.

The magazine, which conveyed military support for Franco, said that "the presidential succession is clearly established...; the vice president is a qualified, competent man with a long record of service to Brazil. He is perfectly qualified to assume the Presidency in the event of a vacancy."

Government politicians who defend Collor against corruption charges have questioned Itamar Franco's capacity.

The military ministers have already made public their decision to respect the Constitution in the event of a

power vacancy, but they never made specific reference to the crisis affecting Fernando Collor.

The Congressional Investigative Commission, which is in charge of investigating the charges of corruption and trafficking in influence against businessman Paulo Cesar Farias—the treasurer of Collor's electoral campaign—has aimed its action at the presidency, while opposition parties and major mass media have demanded the resignation of the president.

If the Commission finds the president to be involved in some of the charges, it may ask Congress to impeach him in order to dismiss him.

The "Shoulder to Shoulder" editorial said: "Even though we do not want to make any predictions about the situation, because there is no conclusive evidence, it is possible to say that the president is in an uncomfortable situation."

The military believe that the president is in a difficult situation because of two factors: his inability to rebut the charges and his mistake of having dismantled the military intelligence organ, which would have helped him with his defense.

The editorial said that Collor lacked political vision when he ordered the dismantling of the National Service for Intelligence (SNI), "an organ that would have certainly given him, throughout his term, information about the intimate details of what is happening in the Republic."

Political, Military, Scholars To Debate

PY1507233892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jul 92 Politics Section p 6

[From "O ESTADO's Column" by Eliane Cantanbede]

[Text] A permanent group consisting of congressmen, military officials, and scholars is being created to discuss Brazil's strategic issues, especially after the end of the so-called "cold war" and reconsideration of the state's role during these times of transition—in our country and throughout the world.

The debates reportedly will be held in Congress, which is already trailing behind the Armed Forces—this type of debate has long been held at the respected Command and General Staff Schools. The group will include historic opponents, even the PT [Workers Party] itself.

This new group is still at a conceptual stage and as such is just a promise but, undoubtedly, a promise that brings good tidings.

Colombia

MSN Expresses Its Support for Gaviria

PA1507171492 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 11 Jul 92 p 6a

[Statement issued by the National Salvation Movement, MSN; place and date not given]

[Text] The National Salvation Movement's [MSN] main objective is to rescue justice, and it has focused all its efforts on reaching that goal. We have repeatedly expressed the need for the legal aspects of the new Constitution regarding justice to be adequately coordinated to ensure efficiency.

The issuance of legal measures that contradict the new Constitution and open the door to impunity greatly worries the MSN. We have regularly warned of the risk posed by Article 415, which establishes the new criminal procedures, as it pertains to procedures for granting provisional freedom.

The prosecutor general's pronouncement is an attempt to stop a situation of generalized impunity that will seriously disrupt public order. The MSN believes the state of internal disturbance declaration, as stipulated in Article 21 of the National Constitution, can halt the implementation of an unacceptable article that is against the healthy principles of our judicial system as it is outlined in the 1991 Constitution.

However, we must note, for the record, the National Government's lack of foresight in this matter. In full knowledge of the conients of Article 415, the government abstained from taking the necessary measures to prevent the article from taking effect. Warnings from several sectors in the country went unheeded.

The executive branch now finds itself in an inconvenient confrontation with judges and lawyers who, making a legitimate interpretation of the new criminal procedures, have not tried to twist or change its contents.

Criminal procedures must be evaluated with patriotic impartiality to close the door on impunity. The national government knew conditions existed that tended to result in impunity. The state of disturbance is the consequence of legal regulations that were well known to civil authorities. The disruption that Article 213 of the new Constitution has tried to remedy has its origin in the government's lack of foresight.

The need to further the nation's best interests prompts the MSN to express its support for the president of the Republic at such a delicate moment. However, the MSN also notes for the record that the measures could have been avoided.

Communist Party Reacts to Disturbance Decree

PA1507153592 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 14 Jul 92 p 6A

[All quotations marks as published]

[Text] The Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] has detected a touch of dictatorial leanings in the decrees issued by the government to solve a problem of penal procedures.

The Central Executive Committee of the PCC also stated that, in association with the Patriotic Union [UP], it will fight in the next legislative period for an "authentic and democratic Code of Penal Procedures, which is what the country requires."

In a statement issued on 10 July, the PCC says: "In a prolonged evening session of President Gaviria's cabinet, the state of internal disturbance was decreed as a way of legislating the old way, through decrees of state of siege, which are now called "internal disturbances."

"It is argued," the statement continues, "that authorities must prevent the liberation of several prisoners, in keeping with the new Penal Procedures Code, which that very same government wrote behind Congress' back. The government did this to "legalize" the arbitrary dispositions of the old state of siege, which President Gaviria imposed despite national protests against those antidemocratic measures."

The government's ineptitude is evident. This incident shows the government's lack of foresight, because various jurists had predicted chaos when the new code went into effect. This also demonstrates the authoritarian decision of Gaviria's government to resolve everything by issuing dictatorial state of emergency decrees.

The Bill on Regulations of Penal Procedures that will be presented by the PCC and the UP before the legislative chambers includes the elimination of secret justice [justicia secreta], the system of accusations [sistema acusatorio], purchased evidence, and faceless judges and witnesses.

Ecuador

Incoming Minister Comments on Future Policies

PA1507233992 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Diego Paredes, the incoming foreign minister, has announced that the government of Sixto Duran Ballen will continue the dialogue with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on the territorial problem that worries both countries. In an interview, Paredes said that a Peruvian delegation will attend the presidential inauguration ceremony, and this will be the first opportunity for the government of Sixto Duran Ballen to contact the Peruvian authorities and continue with the dialogue begun by the government of Rodrigo Borja.

Speaking on the future of Ecuador in the Andean Pact, the future foreign minister said it is uncertain and delicate but he assured that the government of Sixto Duran Ballen feels this should be a means for Ecuador to open up to the world.

When asked about Ecuador's possible attitude in the event Peru and Bolivia withdraw from the Pact and if Ecuador would join the integration process with Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico, the future foreign minister said that in foreign politics it is not advisable to comment on mere possibilities. At any rate, he said, any situation will have to be analyzed carefully, always bearing in mind the interests of the country.

Concerning relations with the United States, Diego Paredes said these will remain at a level of special consideration and mutual respect while keeping Ecuador's individual identity.

There is great interest in learning the new government's pronouncements in the field of international politics, particularly concerning the border issue and Ecuador's stand on the Andean Pact.

So far, Sixto Duran Ballen has appointed seven members of the cabinet: Diego Paredes, foreign minister; Mario Rivadeneira, finance minister; Andres Barreiro, energy and mines minister; Pedro Lopez, public works minister; Eduardo Pena, education minister; Roberto Dunn, government minister; and Mauricio Pinto, industry minister.

Peru

Fujimori on Ways To Involve Parties in Talks

PA1607042392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has said that in view of the refusal of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] and Popular Action leaderships to hold talks with the government, he will go to the rank and file and youth of those parties to ask them for their opinions. He also voiced satisfaction over the results of the first 100 days of the National Emergency and Reconstruction Government. Fujimori made these remarks to the media after a ceremony at the Chorrillos Military Academy to mark War Materiel Service Day.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] The government was consolidated in 100 days. Above all, the position of those calling for change was consolidated and the citizens identify with this quite well.

[Unidentified Reporter] [Words indistinct] proposed that those charged with terrorism receive their sentences in a single day and that [words indistinct] be tried and sentenced on the same day? Do you agree with this proposal?

[Fujimori] The purpose is to complete the proceedings as soon as possible. I learned something from the media:

We have seen how life sentences are handled. These prisoners receive only two visits from their relatives each month and they do not even have [word indistinct].

[Reporter] What about the extradiction of [former Central Reserve Bank manager] Brian Jensen? Has there been any progress, any reaction?

[Fujimori] That is usually a slow process. We hope the Costa Rican Government will cooperate with us. We are, of course, willing to bring back all criminals or people who have harmed Peru in one way or another.

[Reporter] Some are asking for the extradiction of former President Alan Garcia in connection with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International bribes. Will your government heed this request?

[Fujimori] If the Judicial Branch had a well-based justification, we would certainly not put up any objection.

[Reporter] The Freedom and Democracy Movement [ILD] has presented a bill to regulate the elections. Have you assessed the ILD bill? What is your opinion of it?

[Fujimori] No, I have not had a chance to study it and cannot make a judgment.

[Reporter] APRA and Popular Action insist they will not participate in the talks. Will your government promulgate this decree law anyway?

[Fujimori] Of course, most political parties already issued their opinions. Although the fact that the leaders of those parties did not participate in this dialogue eliminated the possibility of making direct contact, that does not prevent us from promulgating a decree law on the framework that will govern the Democratic Constituent Congress because there is another way to consult the members of those parties.

We could go directly to their rank and file. I could, for example, consult the Ja, the APRA youth organization, and I am sure they have spokesmen who reflect the opinion of that party and its youth. I wish to address the youth of those parties, particularly. I am completely sure they share this need for change.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] three months on 22 November. When will this decree law be promulgated?

[Fujimori] There is time; you will see it one of these days. [end recording]

PRC Experts Recommend Building Nuclear Plant

PY1507232192 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Two Chinese scientists who spent 10 days in Peru recommended the construction of a nuclear plant to generate electricity for Lima.

Bao Boron [name as published], head of the Nuclear Fuel Chemical Department, and Yao Zawn, deputy director of the Nuclear Reactor Engineering Department, belong to the Shanghai Nuclear Research Institute. Since 1991 the mentioned institute has produced 300 megawatts, surpassing the Mantaro plant.

The PRC scientists arranged their visit with the National Science and Technology Council (Concytec) and its highest authorities Carlos Chirinos and Ruben Inga, who expressed interest in the recommendation.

Inga Segura, a chemical engineer who specializes in the oil industry, noted the advantage of researching the possibility of building the plant that will not be too costly, and was briefed on safety measures which, according to the visitors, are being used to prevent accidents.

The PRC scientists visited the Huarangal plant, Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise], the Santa Rosa thermoelectrical plant, the Neoplastic Disease Institute, and education centers such as the Agriculture and Engineering University.

The Peruvian scientific community expressed interest in chemical substances, in aquaculture, rural health, biotechnology, and in technology developed in the PRC for the agricultural industry in arid areas.

Government Issues Decree Protecting Human Rights

PY1607023092 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 3 Jul 92 p 7

[Excerpts] The government will sentence to 15 years in prison those officials or public servants who deprive a person of his or her freedom, order or carry out actions leading to his or her disappearance.

The decree law published yesterday in the official gazette establishes this punishment as a way to guarantee the physical integrity of a large number of people who, after their detention, disappeared. [passage omitted]

The decree law requires the National Police personnel to report to the provincial prosecutor all reports on these cases after they are duly checked.

The decree law adds that the National Police personnel must carry a registry on these reports.

For their part, the provincial prosecutors, who are in charge of conducting these investigations, must report on the status of the investigations to the senior prosecutor of the respective judicial district who, in turn, will submit a report to the government attorney.

Another article of this decree law states that the prosecutor's office will submit a monthly report to the Justice Ministry Human Rights Council on the reports on people in the country whose whereabouts are unknown.

So far this year, more than 80 cases have been reported to the Human Rights Association [Asociacion de Derechos Humanos]. Fifty of these cases have been reported to officials of the prosecutor's office. [passage omitted]

Authorities Confront Terrorists in Norte Chico

PY1607124092 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Jul 92 p A13

[Text] With serious logistic and personnel limitations, the Army and the National Police are confronting terrorism in Norte Chico, where the Shining Path remains as the only subversive group continuing to operate in the area.

The MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] was weakened by a split caused last year by Francisco Davila Torres, alias "German," who led a dissident group called "People's Guerrilla Force" ["Fuerza Guerrillera Popular"] (FGP).

This group concentrated its forces in Huaral, from where they conducted their actions. Nevertheless, this group sustained its first important casualty in mid [month omitted as published] when "German" was killed by a MRTA unit in Lima.

The second important blow against the FGP was dealt last month by Huaral police, who captured the Davila Torres brothers and other members of this terrorist group.

After the killing and arrest of the leaders of these two groups (MRTA and FGP), the Shining Path remains as the only terrorist movement continuing to operate in Norte Chico. The forces of order have concentrated their greatest efforts on the Shining Path.

During the second week of May, the Counterterrorism Division (Dincote) captured Luis Regalado Huaman, alias Jorge Velarde Merboro, the Norte Chico Shining Path political chief, in Huacho. Nevertheless, this organization continued operating in the area.

It is known that all Shining Path actions in Norte Chico are conducted from Huacho. That is where the Shining Path has its so-called "main force" that moves to other areas to carry out attacks with the support of the "local forces," involving terrorists who are hiding in several towns and keep the people terrorized.

As an example, there are "local forces" in Oyon, Cajatambo, Gorgor, Andajes, Churin, Barranca, Huaral, Sayan, Chancay, and other neighboring areas.

These "local forces" have carried out the latest attacks in this jurisdiction, such as the killing of 14 soldiers in the ambush of a military convoy in Picunche, 76 km from Sayan, on 10 January, and the killing of civilian and political authorities in hamlets and districts.

'No 3' Shining Path Leader Reportedly Arrested

PY1607125292 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Jul 92 p A11

[Text] Reliable antidrug police sources yesterday reported the arrest of Oscar Alberto Ramirez Durand, the son of a retired Army general. The Counterterrorism Division [Dincote] considers Ramirez Durand to be the possible "No 3" in the Shining Path's leadership.

According to the sources, Ramirez Durand was captured by a National Police car patrol in a street of San Martin de Porres district on the morning of 5 July.

His arrest apparently was facilitated by an anonymous informer who identified him thanks to the television spots through which the association known by the name of The Force of the Law offered $50,000 for his capture. He now is being held in a Dincote jail.

Dincote has maintained the case in total secrecy in order to avoid hindering the investigations.

Comrade Feliciano

Known in the terrorist organization as "Comrade Feliciano," Ramirez Durand was a member of the first Shining Path indoctrination school 18 years ago in Ayacucho, know by the name of "Popular School."

Ramirez Durand, who was always close to the Shining Path leadership—first with Osman Morote Barrionuevo and then with Abimael Guzman himself, taught the essentials of the Shining Path doctrine in Ayacucho.

Born in Arequipa to retired Peruvian Army General Oscar Ramirez Martinez, Ramirez Durand comes from a family of military men and policemen.

His presence passed almost unnoticed by Dincote agents. His identity could be established only last year, after his appearance in a famous video showing him and other Shining Path members. It has been said that an anonymous call and Dincote intelligence work led to his full identification.

It could be learned that as early as the 1980's there were indications he was a Shining Path member. However, it was impossible to track him because he operated in the provinces. There was even a rumor that he underwent plastic surgery to avoid being identified by police.

Ramirez Durand and his wife, Nelly Juana Gamarra Boborquez, who headed the Cerro de Pasco "Political Command," were arrested in 1983. She now is serving a 10-year prison term.

Surprisingly enough, Ramirez Durand managed to be released, thus giving rise to the facial surgery rumors.

Police also reportedly know that he is the leader of the Shining Path's "Huamanga Regional Committee."

It has been learned that by constantly travelling from Huamanga to Lima, he was keeping a sort of file of the decisions made by the Shining Path leadership.

According to Dincote, Ramirez Durand was also in charge of masterminding bomb attacks on the orders of Abimael Guzman, and of infiltrating unions and student circles in San Marcos University and the National Engineering University [UNI].

"Feliciano" left his Chemical Engineering career at UNI to join the terrorist ranks.

Our sources said that he was captured on 5 July, near the market on the third and fourth blocks of Callao Street, in San Martin de Porres.

The sources said that while on a routine patrol in the area, a policeman from the Barboncitos police station identified him. Other versions say that an anonymous passer-by identified him.

An unconfirmed rumor is that Maruja Esther Acero Sanchez, who is said to be Ramirez Durand's mistress, also was arrested after reporting to the police station to ask about Ramirez Durand.

Uruguay

Lacalle Views Need For 'Community of Knowledge'

PY1507223292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0904 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Jul (EFE)—In the opinion of Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, who will participate in the second summit of Ibero-American chiefs of state in Madrid on 23-24 July, the important thing is to advance toward a community of knowlege.

In an interview with EFE, Lacalle answered questions about what, in his opinion, should be the essence of a community of Ibero-American countries:

[Lacalle] I believe that to see whether there is a community of Iberian nations, we must analyze whether there is an issue, a matter on which the Iberian countries have common interest, and particularly, a projection for the future. I discard the idea that there is an Iberian community in political matters because the two mother nations—Spain and Portugal—belong to the EC, from which we are separated not only by geographical distance but also because they form a community, the interests of which are often different—and sometimes opposing—to those of the American countries. It is also clear that in the economic and military affairs fields they have no common interests: Some belong to NATO and others to the Rio de Janeiro Treaty. I would say that the only field in which we can create a community of Iberian countries, if we work hard, is in culture. By culture I mean something more than simply artistic expressions as the word has been understood until recently. I mean culture in the sense of education, information, and use of information. Currently, use of information is one of the well-known promoters of progress and will become more important in the 21st century. This is why we have created the concept and the program—which is being implemented—of a Common Market of Knowledge based on our initiative proposed to the OAS. In November, the OAS delegates will meet in Uruguay to begin designing this community of knowledge, which is aimed at a more effective transference of advanced knowledge. This makes me believe that if we center the Iberian community on the fields of education, exchange of knowledge, and generation and preservation of knowledge, we can succeed—in view of our common language—in creating a cultural community which, I insist, can have a deeper and more pragmatic concept than mere artistic expressions. I am thinking about culture as an educational, informative, and productive element.

[EFE] What similarity do you see between the Spanish and Portuguese transitions to democracy and the progress and current situation of democracy in Latin America, and specifically in Uruguay?

[Lacalle] These processes are substantially different, unless we view them on a very generic level. The transition into democracy in Spain and Portugal followed extremely long periods of authoritarian regimes. For 30 or 40 years, the two countries lived under authoritarian regimes, while in the Latin American countries, more precisely, in Uruguay, the democratic eclipses were temporary in historic terms. In view of the long-lasting Uruguayan democratic tradition, 12 years of an authoritarian regime are a very brief time. There are no similarities, except the very generic one in that all these countries again have democracies.

[EFE] Do you believe it possible—not only desirable—to strengthen ties that are currently so weak, such as the economic ties, between Latin America and Spain? If you believe it possible, how can it be achieved?

[Lacalle] Yes, it is possible, but I repeat: Spain and Portugual are members of the EC economic-commercial-political bloc, and we are out of it. I do not believe it is possible to analyze the Spain-Portugal compatibility only regarding Ibero-America. We must analyze Ibero-American compatibility regarding the entire EC. We cannot fully believe that Spain and Portugal—to strengthen their ties—will give up their huge objective of achieving European integration. What I do believe—and this still is only a wish—is that Spanish and Portuguese integration can become a reason to link us more strongly to the EC.

[EFE] How could Spain and Portugal cooperate with Ibero-America?

[Lacalle] The two countries could serve as a bridge, but on this point I believe we must be very pragmatic and not harbor any illusions. We have had tangible and important proof of Spain's willingness to contribute to Uruguay's development in the financial cooperation agreements (established last April during Lacalle's official visit to Spain) that we will sign within two weeks. Nevertheless, I do not think that with this we can believe that their European interests will no longer be important for Spain and Portugal or that they will act disparagingly against their European interests in order to approach Latin Americans or Ibero-Americans.

[EFE] How do you envisage the second Ibero-American summit?

[Lacalle] I hope we will find reasons that will allow us to continue our meetings not just for the sake of meeting among ourselves. The danger I see in periodic meetings is that one of these days we will find out that these meetings have no substance other than the mere fact of meeting among ourselves. The gathering of more than 20 Latin American heads of state, the Spanish king, the president of the Spanish Government, and the Portuguese prime minister is very important; it is no small thing. Yet, there must be a substance in addition to just the fact that a meeting is held. Therefore, the topic that we are persistently raising can be a reason for the meetings to make sense.

[EFE] Are you carrying any proposal to the summit?

[Lacalle] The concrete proposal that we are carrying in the name of Uruguay is that—following the Guadalajara phase, which was the initial phase and actually became news just because it was held—now, with the arrival of this second stage during the Fifth Centennial, we dare to say: In the future, we will clear the way and we will concentrate on this or that common activity; and with this perhaps the goal will be less spectacular, but more effective, so that we will be able to become involved jointly in a multiyear plan.

Economy Minister Predicts Low Inflation

PY1507233292 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Jul 92 p 11

[Excerpts] Inflation will continue to drop, and this tendency will increase during the second semester this year; the increase of the gross domestic product [GDP] will be at least similar to that of the previous year (approximately 2 percent); there will be no pressure on the exchange system; the country will continue to improve, but not without much sacrifice, the process of adapting to a more open economy; the government will seek to reduce state meddling in the economy; and there is hope that by 1 March 1995 some progress will be achieved in the economic and cultural changes so as to avoid the temptation of taking a step backwards by the government that may be in office on that date.

These were the main elements discussed yesterday by Economy and Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas in his speech to the business forum organized by the Christian Association of Business Leaders. [passage omitted]

The economy minister reaffirmed the policy of economic openess and urged the businessmen to go to Congress to voice their complaints over unnecessary expenditures. He added that the "national congress has the final word" concerning the reduction of public expenditures.

In answer to a question, the economy minister said that the decree which establishes a tariff reduction as of January 1993 "is in effect." He added that "it is not good to take forward and backward steps" on these matters. However, he conveyed some flexibility by stating that "the three of us will study it (he was referring to the industry and livestock ministers accompanying him), but in principle, that is our government guideline."

The economy minister began his speech by stating that he would follow the same path taken by his two predecessors, Ache and Ramos, "but this should be looked at as a sign of the manner in which the ministries have been acting in a coordinated manner." [passage omitted]

Following the adoption of a number of measures, he added, 1991 ended with a fiscal deficit of 1.4 percent of the GDP, and concerning 1992, so far there is a balance, but it will not be maintained for the rest of the year due to an unforeseen increase in state expenditures, possibly referring to the payment of adjustments granted to the salaries of military and police personnel.

Referring to the reduction in the deficit, the economy minister said that it "is an important achievement but not the desideratum [preceding word in Latin] the government wants and the country needs. Balance is a necessary condition for stability, but the best thing is that the balance is achieved at lower levels."

Likewise, he said that the foreign debt has been reduced by 34 percent and the rest was refinanced for between 15 and 30 years. This and the drop in international interests reduced the debt burden by $150 million. During that period, there was an 18 percent increase in average incomes and tourism had a successful period with an income of $330 million.

For 1992, De Posadas said that the GDP increased 7 percent during the first quarter as compared to the same period last year, and 4 percent over the previous quarter. However, he explained that although this growth will not be maintained all year long, it marks an expanding economy which is strengthened by the economic indicators of each area.

He immediately emphasized: "But this should not make us brag about it." He pointed out that the recent events showed the positive aspects of the open government economic policy with the tariff reductions begun on 1 April.

De Posadas also referred to the struggle against inflation, pointing out the recent low figures which despite some seasonal factors will continue to fall even further in the second half of this year. He added that this also shows some symptoms seen by economists that the change will be maintained.

Minister de Posadas added: "This policy was carried out when the predictions of catastrophe and recession which did not occur were made by some groups. So far the predictions have not occurred and there is no indication that they will happen in the future. Last year the GDP grew 2 percent and the per capita income for the first time went over $3,000 which is the highest in Latin America." He also revealed that investments went over

18 percent and that there was a great increase in the import of capital goods which went over 50 percent. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question about the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the doubts shown by the Brazilian position on matters of coordinating macroeconomic policies, Minister de Posadas indicated that this question should be posed in a different manner: "If Brazil does not follow up with its economic policy, are we willing to leave the Mercosur?" He said that the way the common tariff is evolving, "if the most industrialized country of the four Mercosur members does not give in, what will happen is that its market will be flooded with products from the other countries which will cause the common tariff problem to be resolved by itself." [passage omitted]

About the future, De Posadas said that it depends on several factors. Some of them are in the hands of the executive branch and some are not. Regarding the factors in the hand of the government he mentioned: maintaining a predictable and stable economic policy, not stopping in the struggle against inflation, keeping the different ingredients of the economic policy in harmony, continuing with the reorganization of public spending to achieve a zero deficit, improving the mechanisms for tax collection, renewing efforts to deregulate the economy even further, especially the foreign trade (he announced measures to eliminate the "double custom house" work which is practiced by the BROU [Bank of Uruguay] and the Custom House itself by reorganizing the paper work), continuing with the privatization policy, maintaining economic openess, and supporting the merging of some companies.

Regarding the reduction of public spending, De Posadas said that this "is one of the most important problems" because it is affected by some "constitutional restrictions" in government action and that a great deal depends on the budget report.

He said: "Without taking the responsibility off the executive branch the substantial part of it is in the hands of Congress. We do not want to get involved in a controversy but we do want to emphasize the responsibility of the business organizations on this issue. I call on them to exercise their rights before those who represent them directly."

In this regard he pointed out that when the Budget Law and the report on the previous budget were debated many people went around Congress trying to introduce more spending, etc., "while you businessmen who pay the bills were not present. Ask to be heard in Congress because the spending reduction the country needs will not be achieved through the effort of the executive branch alone."

Cultural, Educational Accord Signed With Cuba

PY1507181892 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 2 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] On behalf of the Uruguayan and Cuban Governments, Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell and Cuban Ambassador to Uruguay Abelardo Curbelo Padron signed an Agreement for Cultural and Educational Cooperation at the Foreign Ministry on 1 July.

The agreement establishes the basis for cooperation between the two governments and between the two nations' various institutions working in the fields of culture, art, sports, publications, and education. The objective is to make the two cultures better known and increase the exchange of knowledge between the two peoples.

This is the third agreement signed between the two Latin American countries. The first one was in the field of trade and the second for cooperation in the economic and industrial fields. The latter still must be ratified by the two parties.

The ceremony was attended by several high-ranking Uruguayan Foreign Ministry officials and Uruguayan Ambassador to Cuba Alberto Voss Rubio. Members of the Cuban Embassy in Montevideo also attended the ceremony.

Venezuela

President Perez Comments on Travel Disapproval

PA1607032292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez was asked about his trip to the Ibero-American Summit in Madrid, and said he addressed a letter to the National Congress explaining his conduct before the Congress.

[Begin recording] [Perez] I fulfill and heed. I fulfill my constitutional duty. If the Congress refuses to give me permission to go to Madrid, of course I cannot go because that is part of my constitutional duty.

[Unidentified reporter] It would appear that your party, the Democratic Action party, is not willing to fight over it.

[Perez] I do not want to talk about this or start an argument. In my letter to the president of the Congress I clearly explained my conduct. As president of the republic, it is my duty to act with complete clarity and justify all my actions. [end recording]

The president made these statements in Maracay, where he inaugurated the tomography unit of the Central Hospital, which cost 40 million bolivares. It was the first such unit installed by the national government in Aragua State or the central region.

President Perez had previously inaugurated the first ejection seat trainer, called Vulture 1 [Buitre 1], unique

to Latin America and built at the Aeronautic Sanitation Service of the Venezuelan Air Force in Maracay. This simulator, built by engineer Eric Fuguet Guedes, is meant to ease the ejection of fighter plane pilots. This chair is one of the most important technological advances achieved by the Venezuelan Air Force and places our Air Force in the international spotlight.

Honduran President Holds News Conference

PA1507145592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas says Latin American integration must take place multilaterally and meet all the needs for bilateral participation and marketing.

President Callejas made that statement during a 14 July news conference at Miraflores Palace as part of his three-hour visit to our country.

His visit was meant to personally convey the solidarity of the Honduran Government and its people with Venezuela and other democracies in the region. President Callejas also reiterated his support for the process of change headed by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

The topics discussed included the prospects for regional development, economic adjustment processes, regional, European, and U.S. international markets, and cooperation from the industrialized countries. The effects and limitations of programs such as the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative proposed by U.S. President George Bush was also discussed.

[Begin Callejas recording] We have supported the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, and we think it is timely and appropriate. Some countries, like Honduras, have already benefited from it. The United States has already pardoned $454 million of the Honduran debt. We are now using those funds for social and environmental development programs. Therefore, there is already a perceptible result.

The most complicated subject we will deal with is the free trade programs, or the opening of markets. In that regard, the agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico will have a negative impact on us if we, the Central American and Caribbean region, do not reach a trade agreement with the United States. [end recording]

The Honduran president insisted on the need to strengthen all multilateral relations through a political, economic, social, and cultural process, as that is the only way to overcome underdevelopment and the region's other problems.

Legislators Issue Communique on Media Attacks

PA1507202292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] In a joint session, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies agreed to condemn what they described as an attack campaign by the media after Congress approved the modification of the constitutional articles on freedom of speech and ownership of the media. The resolution was read by Social Christian Party Deputy Alfredo Tarre Murzi:

[Begin Tarre Murzi recording] 1. To condemn the media's campaign against the Venezuelan Congress and the interference of several representatives of foreign press organizations and certain foreign officials who have insulted the national legislative branch.

2. To request that the Attorney General's Office begin the appropriate investigations, in accordance with the law, to penalize those who make statements that constitute crimes of defamation and injury, as those statements obviously instigate attacks on senators and deputies.

3. To undertake at all times the defense of the Congress and its member senators and deputies with the full rights they have as members of a competent institutional branch to reform the national constitution as demanded by the interests of the Republic and the grand destiny of our democracy.

4. To broadly disseminate this resolution of the national Congress in the press, radio, and television of the capital and in the interior of Venezuela. [end recording]